











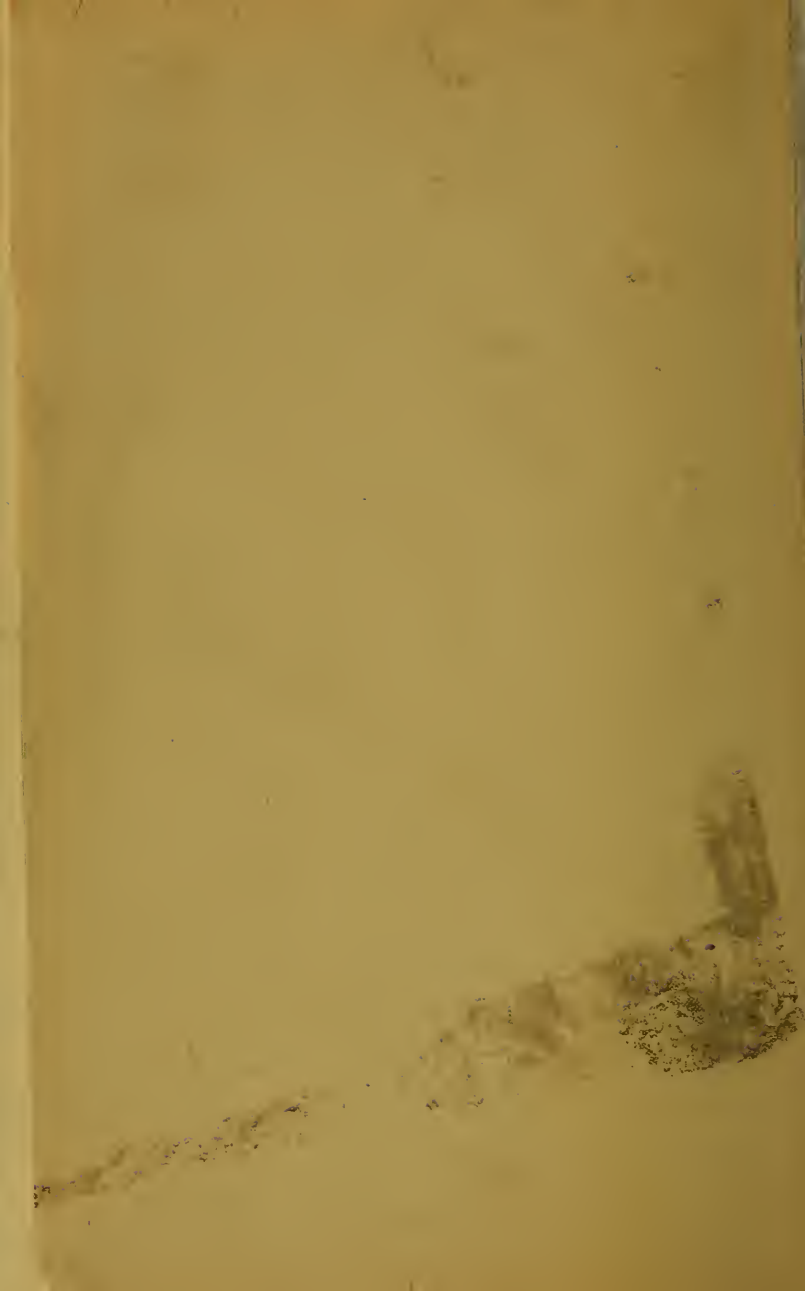


# FOOTBALL FACTS AND FIGURES

COMPILED BY

WALTER  
CAMP 

FORWARD  
PENFIELD



# FOOTBALL FACTS AND FI.

*A SYMPOSIUM OF EXPERT OPINION  
ON THE GAME'S PLACE IN  
AMERICAN ATHLETICS*

COMPILED BY  
WALTER CAMP  
AUTHOR OF "AMERICAN FOOTBALL" ETC.



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#### NOTE.

*The statistics contained in this volume were collected by a committee consisting of the Hon. James W. Alexander, President of the University Club, of New York ; the Rev. Joseph H. Twichell, of the Yale Corporation ; the Hon. Henry E. Howland, of the New York Bar ; the Rev. Endicott Peabody, of Groton School ; Robert Bacon, of the Harvard Board of Overseers ; and Walter Camp.*



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## INTRODUCTION

### ORIGIN OF THE COMMITTEE

THE stir that had been created last fall \* by the wholesale attacks upon football was sufficient to leave parents of boys in an uncomfortable uncertainty as to what their duty was, and this uncertainty finally led a prominent Boston gentleman to formally ask the Harvard Board of Overseers for an investigation. No one, up to that time, had felt called upon to present the other side of the question, and those most familiar with the sport had been disinclined to take up what might, they said, be termed a defence of football. But when it was made evident that in such an enquiry there was only the desire for a full and complete investigation, it seemed both possible and just to secure a wide expression of opinion from past players, and from those most competent, through their connection with schools and colleges, to judge as to the effects of the game. Mr. Robert Bacon, of the Harvard Board of Overseers, was on the committee to whom this question was referred, and in November he came to New Haven and asked Mr. Walter Camp if he would consent to act as chairman of a committee or body of investigators who should look into the matter thoroughly. He further stated that the gentleman who asked the question of the Harvard Board of Overseers was in no way opposed to football, but was, like many others, anxious to possess some definite knowledge as to the facts. The plan seemed practicable, and after obtaining their consent to act, the following gentlemen were asked to attend a

meeting in New York : Rev. Jos. Twichell of Hartford, Conn., a member of the Yale Corporation ; Rev. Endicott Peabody of Groton School, Mass. ; James W. Alexander of Princeton, vice-president of the Equitable Life Assurance Society ; Honorable Henry E. Howland of New York ; Robert Bacon of the Harvard Board of Overseers, and Walter Camp. Dr. Pepper of the University of Pennsylvania had also been invited, but press of work prevented his accepting. Mr. Camp submitted a plan of investigation which the gentlemen discussed and ultimately authorized. This plan was to secure an expression of opinion from head-masters of schools, members of faculty of colleges, and former captains of football teams. In addition to this it was planned to institute a comparison between football and some well known sport. After investigation it was found that the only thorough enquiry into the question of the number benefited and injured by any sport was one made by Dr. Morgan of Oxford, regarding the boating men of his university. It was, therefore, determined to take his summary as the basis of comparison. It was found that by taking the players of the Harvard, Princeton, and Yale teams from the introduction of Rugby football into America, down to the present date, the number would be very close to the number of men who rowed in 'varsity races during the years included in Dr. Morgan's research. A quotation from McLaren gives the best idea of Dr. Morgan's work :

“ For many a long year strange tales of the risks and dangers of rowing, or rather of boat-racing, have had a floating existence in the universities, and, gaining strength and circumstantiality by time and repetition, have extended to wider circles. While the old tales lived and held their own, other and more startling legends sprang up and also grew into importance—legends so alarming, and related with such circum-

stantial detail, that the most sceptical began to think 'there must be something in it.' Whole crews, it was stated, had been swept off in a few brief years by their terrible struggles and efforts at the oar. This feeling of uneasiness, if not of absolute alarm, attained a sort of climax a few years ago by the letters of an eminent surgeon published in the *Times*. For reasons which seemed to his professional judgment sufficient, he took the side of the alarmist, and pronounced an opinion, strongly expressed, against boat-racing as now practised. These letters were answered with more or less ability by votaries of the oar, men then actively engaged in rowing, or who had recently been so. The ample lists in Dr. Morgan's book, the liberal extracts from his correspondents' answers to his queries—his correspondents being the oarsmen themselves—tell us all; tell us where they are, what they are doing, what they did when with us and how they did it, and, in their own language, tell with characteristic frankness, and in words which we can still recognize as their old modes of expression, what they think and believe for or against their old favorite pastime."

His table of conclusions was as follows :

Benefited by rowing, . . . . .	115
Uninjured by rowing, . . . . .	132
Injured by rowing, . . . . .	17

It was the purpose of this committee, expressed at its first meeting, to lay before parents, faculty, and all interested as complete an investigation as possible of the results of the game in this country since it became a recognized sport in 1876. In order to do this they have followed up every player on the Harvard and Yale teams with one exception, and all but some half dozen on the Princeton teams, during that period of eighteen years. They have replies from the living, and, in the case of

the dead, the testimony of friends or family as to the cause of death. Regarding the latter, in only a single instance was death attributed in any way to the sport. In that single case overtraining in several athletic lines was supposed to have weakened the constitution of the man, although no direct connection existed. Similar enquiries were made by Mr. John C. Bell regarding the players of the University of Pennsylvania, and the proportions are practically the same as in the other three.

The committee have also assembled the opinions of members of the faculty and head-masters of schools that the reader might know what the effect of the game was from the standpoint of the expert observer who would be particularly tenacious of the rights of study and discipline. In order to have a fair showing of both sides, *all* the letters received from this source are printed. In the case of the letters from players, the opinion was so unanimously in favor of the sport that only a few are given.

For the sake of comparison, and not in any way as reflecting upon rowing, for Dr. Morgan's report shows the value of that sport, Dr. Morgan's investigation into English university rowing has been taken.

men over another, but it is a contest for supremacy, in which supremacy is gained not by physical strength alone, but by this strength rightly directed by mind.

In the first place the rules of the game must be observed by every player. The interpretation and application of them in every moment of play calls for no ordinary quickness of mind in a successful player.

Though each man has a special line of play belonging to his position on a team, yet his play is so related to the plays of the rest of the team, that he cannot act without regard to the other players. It is eminently a game of combinations. Individual play is important, but team-play is more important. The signals of the captain must be heeded by all the players, even if they seem to be given for only two or three men.

Then, through weeks of preparation, these signals have to be studied, to be memorized, to be practised as thoroughly and faithfully by the men as the laws of any science by successful scholars.

The only other college game which is to be compared with it in respect of team-play is the game of base-ball. Yet in this game the players have fixed positions. Though team-play is important, it is not as important as in football, while individual play, as for instance that of pitcher or catcher, is more important.

In rowing, the work, though requiring skill and severe training, is largely mechanical. In track athletics the individual is everything.

That the game has had attractions for intellectual men in the past is shown by the fact that the average scholarship of men on the football teams has of late years been higher than that of men in the other athletic organizations. Notwithstanding the present style of mass play, which puts a premium on physical strength and weight, it was a surprise to me to find that the average scholarship of the sixteen men from the aca-

demic department, including players and substitutes, was higher than the average of any class which ever graduated. I cannot believe, however, that the high scholarship of football players will always prevail unless the style of the game be changed to one which admits of more open play.

Another advantage of the game is that the practice of it engages a large number of players. A regular team has two more men than the base-ball nine, and three more than the crew of eight men. The substitutes, having a systematic training, are more numerous than the substitutes for either base-ball or for the crew. Track athletics only can be compared with it in the numbers brought into it. For a short period of the year this latter sport may exercise more men, but taking into consideration the various class teams of football, and especially the team of the Freshmen class with substitutes, it is doubtful if even the numbers of those engaging in track athletics exceed the numbers engaging in football.

Of the benefits accruing to the players, the physical benefits are the least noteworthy. Yet the play brings into activity almost every muscle of the body. The legs, the arms, and the trunk are all used. No part of the muscular system is developed abnormally. But great as are the benefits of the sport to the players in mind and body, they are not to be compared with its moral effects. If there is one virtue more to be desired in a manly character, without which indeed the character ceases to be manly, that virtue is courage. And of the college sports there is not one which cultivates this manly virtue more than football. Neither is the courage required entirely physical. Indeed, the best players feel and see the danger which they brave. Conscious of injuries received, they often continue to face plays which may exaggerate their pains.



Then the need of self-control in the midst of strong excitement is another valuable lesson learned. Self-denial is taught in the voluntary abnegation of the delights of college life, in the forsaking of indulgence in the luxuries of life. To training in courage, endurance, and self-control must be added the valuable lesson of obedience to authority. The discipline in this respect is as strict as the strictest military discipline. Men are required to obey captain and coach, and to obey silently. This unquestioning instant submission to word of command is not the least of the excellent lessons of a football season. It shows its effects in the whole college life and college world.

Strange as it may seem, a good claim can be made of a necessary connection between good character and good football in its best development. In every thing requiring the best results, the best success depends upon the best men. As there is no other college sport which so brings out the best virtues in a man, so there is no other college sport which is so dependent for its success upon good all-round men. Though this statement is measurably true for all amateur sports, it is emphatically true of football. It has been borne out by facts. The best teams in Yale have had not only the best players, but the most successful teams have contained the most moral and religious men. In a class prayer-meeting I once heard a man, who was for two years a most valuable player (a captain one of those years), declare that the great success of the team the previous season was, in his opinion, due to the fact that "among the team and substitutes there were so many praying men." As it was with this man, so it has ever been with the successful captains, as well as the successful coaches at Yale. They have been God-fearing men, upright in action and clean in speech.

The good effects of the game of football, in com-

mon with the good effects of the other sports, need only a passing mention. Among these may be instanced the *esprit de corps* to which the other sports give rise, the healthy excitements necessary to young men which they furnish, excitements which, for many, replace and moderate, if they do not entirely drive out, the old excitements of gambling and drinking, gate stealing, contests between town and gown, formerly so prevalent and so difficult to deal with on the part of the college authorities. But in addition to these and other benefits to the college world, football with its contests and training comes at a time of the year when it does the most good, not only in the directions mentioned, but in two other ways. Boys who are just entering college, and for the first time in their careers are freed from the restraints of school or home, it introduces to a new discipline, a discipline of their fellows, and to new ideals which, if not the highest, are at least respectable and worthy of imitation. It brings many of them in contact with the best men in college, and saves not a few of them from wasting their idle hours in foolish and hurtful dissipation. Again, it absorbs the attention of all the college to such a degree as to divert the minds of many of those upper-class men who formerly thought they had a mission to perform in acquainting the new men with the submission required of them in their college home. The discipline of the sport, coming at the time it does, has almost entirely done away with that occupation. The Freshmen have learned their lesson in a better way, under better instructors. The discipline of football has almost banished the discipline of hazing, or left it tame and without excuse for its existence.

**Brutality.** This is the hardest charge to meet because there is such a difference of opinion as to what constitutes brutality. In the eyes of timid people any



collisions between young men in the most properly conducted game would seem brutal, though these same collisions would seem tame fun to the average school-boy. Personal encounters of some kind seem absolutely necessary to the education of young men, especially men of the strongest character. Such young men, judiciously trained, constitute the best citizens of a state. And a state full of such citizens becomes thereby the safest to live in, for such men are its best defence. At the dinner given by Colonel Higginson to the teams of Yale and Harvard, it was remarked by Mr. Ropes, the historian, that those nations which practised semi-military games like football were not only the strongest nations but that they were the least likely to push into war, whereas other nations seemed to carry a chip on their shoulders, ready to fight on the smallest provocation. Certainly those who have been intimately acquainted with students and student life for the past twenty-five years can bear testimony not only to the decreasing brutality of college customs, but also to the generally mild and gentlemanly characters of the football players. They, by their influence and example in the college, have largely contributed to this better state of college life.

If violent encounters on the football field do lead to the temptation of inflicting needless personal injuries on an opponent, they also give opportunities for resisting this temptation, and consequently for the development of the highest forms of courage and self-control. According to the observations of the writer, these opportunities are embraced by the majority of the players. Only the minority yield to the temptation, and few of that minority attain to prominent places on a team. If the contrary were the fact, football would long ago have vanished from the list of college sports.

With reference to the evils of public contests and

gate money and strains and injuries, the writer sees no reason to change the views already expressed :

“ If field athletics are to continue, the expense of them must be met in one of two ways : either by gate money or by subscriptions. Most young men prefer to give their money at the gate and thus to pay for what they see. If a club knows that it has to spend only what it earns, it will be stimulated, first, to play as good a game as possible ; and, secondly, to spend its earnings with prudence. It seems only just, too, that if the public desire to see a good game, they should pay for the exhibition.”

The evils of liability to strains and injuries in athletics cannot be entirely obviated. It is well to bear in mind at this point the fact that even those who are not athletes do not, therefore, enjoy immunity from accidents. Yet so far, according to the recollection of the writer, no regular member of a Yale crew, team, or nine, has been permanently injured by participating in a race or match. Still, it is possible that a slight injury, to a person having organic weakness, might result in a fatal lesion. Such an issue might be avoided by the requirement that every candidate for trial should be examined by a competent physician, and, in default of procuring a certificate of physical soundness, should be excluded from participation in physical contests.

As to the interference by the faculties in the way of measures limiting the game, I have already hinted at one, namely, the requiring of a certificate of physical soundness for every candidate for athletic honors. I would also limit teams to undergraduates. This measure would bring the teams better under control of faculty supervision, and would besides put a certain limit to competition. In the first place, the professional schools do not exercise a strict personal supervision over the students. They assume, and rightly, that a man who

commences the study of a profession has begun the serious business of life, and is capable of directing his own time. He may be absent from every exercise of the school, except the examinations. Passing those, he can still be a member of the school in good and regular standing. Such a student, when in competition for a place on the team with a member of the undergraduate department, who is held up to attendance on daily exercises, has a great advantage over him. His freedom from restraint exercises a pernicious influence on the the man who is subject to restraint. Concert of action between the faculties of undergraduate departments and those of graduate and professional schools in the way of control of any sport is almost impossible from the very circumstances of the case.

Instead of appointing committees to act with the students in the regulation of the sports, a better way to control them would be the appointment of a director of athletics to a seat in the undergraduate faculty, who should be the medium of communication between the students and the instructors. Such a man ought to have the confidence of the students and be in sympathy with them. He ought also to be a gentleman and a scholar, a graduate of the college, and a man holding its best traditions of righteousness and scholarship sacred. Such a man would be open to the responsibilities of both sides, of the scholarship side as represented by the instructors, and of the healthy boy side of student life. I would not have the management of athletics taken out of the hands of the students, but I would have him help them with advice and with instruction too, if necessary. I would have him attend the practice games and the races; oversee the coaches and trainers, watch the players and students. He could prevent, without recourse to "reporting to the faculty," repetitions of mistakes and follies on the part of the students. He

could keep out bad men from the list of trainers. He could prevent many a promising lad from wrecking himself by making the excitement of college sport the be-all and end-all of his existence. By his presence among the instructors he could, as opportunity offered, with timely words, fend off those sad mistakes which worthy gentlemen of the best intentions sometimes make in their dealings with boys, mistakes of which I think I am justified in saying that Yale has not often been guilty in the past fifteen years. The director would earn his salary if he did faithfully what his hand found to do. If such men were appointed by all the colleges, and if joint action by the colleges seemed desirable, these men would be best fitted to deal with questions which might arise, and to suggest solutions of existing difficulties, without recommending unpractical and impossible plans.

*Professor Richards, in "Popular Science Monthly"*

There is in every large college a body of men, many of whom may be at bottom very good fellows, but who, as a class, are not the best representatives of youthful manhood. These are the dudes, for whom athletic sports are too hard or too "brutal." They are an increasing class in the colleges which draw their membership largely from the cities. Where this class is most numerous, athletics flourish least. The best antidote to the dudish spirit is to be found in athletics. It will be an evil day for any college when this effeminate class is large enough or influential enough to call for or support measures which are designed to strike from the list of college sports a game like football. It is a rough game, but it requires, in a successful player, the fearlessness, coolness, and quick thinking which make it, beyond all others, a manly game.

To throw light on this question, the writer obtained

from Dr. Seaver of Yale College two sets of measurements of members of *one class*, so as to ascertain the *growth for one year*. The first set of measurements was made soon after the class entered college, and its second set was taken in its sophomore year. Complete double measurements were procured from 102 men, the remainder of the class—between 20 and 30 men—having neglected to submit to the second measurement. Of these 22 were out-of-door athletes and 80 were not, though they were under instruction in light gymnastics during a large part of their freshman year. The question, therefore, was considered under conditions as favorable as possible to Dr. Sargent's point of view. The results are presented graphically on page 12 and in numbers on page 13.

In the table, the items of *strength* of back and legs, and of weight, are given in pounds. Capacity of lungs is given in cubic inches. The other figures denote millimetres and tenths of millimetres.

The chart gives the average growth of the athletes as compared with the growth of the non-athletic men. The lighter parts of the chart indicate the excess of growth of one class above the growth of the other.

Of the 22 athletes 2 were base-ball players, 6 football players, 6 rowing men, and 8 were track athletes. Of the football men 5 were also rowing men. The averages are given for the four sets of men, as well as for the two classes (non-athletic and athletic), that the reader may see for himself how each kind of exercise has affected those taking it. The figures for the special athletes are derived from so small a number of men that they can hardly be taken as *conclusive*. They are merely *significant*. The small gain in the average of "strength of legs" of the football men was due to the loss of strength on the part of one man. Without him the remaining 5 gained an average of forty-eight pounds.





*For One Class: Average Measurements of Growth during One Year*

FACTS AND OPINIONS REGARDING FOOTBALL	GROWTH.	Rest of class: 80 non-athletes.	OUT-DOOR ATHLETES.				
			22 out-door athletes.	2 base-ball men.	6 football men.	6 rowing men.	8 track athletes.
Height.....	7.2 mm.		8 mm.	8.5 mm.	7.5 mm.	11.3 mm.	5.75 mm.
Girth of neck.....	3		7.7	6	11.3	5.7	7
Girth of chest (normal).....	16.1		32.1	11	35.8	31.3	35.2
Girth of chest (inflated).....	11.7		36.2	15.5	33.8	40.7	39.7
Girth of waist.....	10.1		13.3	23	11	15.8	11.9
Girth of thigh.....	8		17.3	16	15.7	15.2	21.2
Girth of calf.....	7.6		10.1	11	12.8	10	7.9
Girth of arm.....	6.3		9.3	9	7.7	11	9.2
Girth of forearm.....	4.2		7.1	2.5	9.5	6.7	6.9
Breadth of shoulders.....	10.4		13.8	12.5	11.5	11.7	17.4
Breadth of waist.....	3.4		7.2	10	5.5	6.8	8
Strength of back.....	29 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.		68.4 lbs.	30 lbs.	55 lbs.	63 $\frac{3}{8}$ lbs.	91 $\frac{7}{8}$ lbs.
Strength of legs.....	40 $\frac{1}{4}$		52.3	45	19	51 $\frac{5}{8}$	81 $\frac{7}{8}$
Capacity of lungs.....	5.9 cu. in.		9.7 cu. in.	12.2 cu. in.	7.6 cu. in.	10.2 cu. in.	10.3 cu. in.
Weight.....	7.1 lbs.		8.7 lbs.	7 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.	9 lbs.	9.6 lbs.	8.2 lbs.
Gain in symmetry.....	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p. ct.		15 p. ct.	34 p. ct.	24 p. ct.	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p. ct.	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p. ct.

The growth of *girth of neck* of the athletes, in comparison with the same item for the non-athletic men, is worthy of attention. The gain in *strength of back* of the track athletes and their gain in *strength of arm* ought to be noticed.

To test the question of symmetry of growth, the differences between the sizes of right arm and left arm, of right forearm and left forearm, of right thigh and left thigh, of right calf and left calf, were taken for *each year*. The sum of the differences of the second year (being less in both classes of students) was subtracted from the sum of the differences of the first year. The remainder was a gain in symmetry. This remainder, divided by the sum of the differences of the first year, gave the percentage of "gain in symmetry."

*Report of Dr. Conant, in charge of the Harvard Teams*

Including all the serious accidents, *not only to the 'varsity squad, but to the other class teams:*

LIST OF FOOTBALL INJURIES

	'90.	'91.	'92.	'93.
Fractures of the nose.....	9	6	5	4
Dislocation of the shoulder.....	0	1	0	0
Dislocation of the elbow.....	0	2	0	1
Injury of the knee joint with effusion.....	15	12	10	8
Injury of the knee joint without effusion....	20	16	12	10
Sprains of the ankle.....	15	16	12	9
Fracture of the metacarpal.....	4	2	2	3
Fracture of the radius.....	0	0	0	1
Fracture of the tibia and fibula.....	0	1	0	0
Teno-synovitis.....	12	10	8	8
Sprains other than knee and ankle.....	10	6	8	7
Scalp wounds.....	4	2	3	3
Injury to shoulder (Tackle's shoulder).....	6	4	5	4



*Professor James Barr Ames of Harvard University*

The successful football player must possess strength and endurance ; he must think and act quickly ; he must be brave ; he must control his temper in the face of strong temptation and be always ready to subordinate his individual action to the interest of the team as a whole.

The merits of a game demanding these qualities will be obvious to every one. Are they outweighed by the objections most frequently urged against the game, namely, that it is physically dangerous and that it interferes too seriously with the scholarship of the players ? I think they are not. There is certainly weight in these objections. The valuable statistics which you are collecting will doubtless show that common opinion greatly exaggerates the physical risks of football. At the same time I think football players will generally agree that the game hitherto has been unnecessarily dangerous. The changes recently formulated by the " Rules Revision Committee " will go far to minimize the physical perils of the game. If further intelligent legislation follows, as experience shows its necessity, and if parents and school and college authorities adopt the principle, already in force in many institutions, that no one shall be allowed to play football until his physical condition has been passed upon favorably by a competent physician, the objection of physical danger will, I believe, lose almost all its force.

The figures of your forthcoming book will be the best possible indication of the effect of football upon the scholarship of the players. I am convinced that in recent years the demands of football upon the time and attention of the Harvard players have been excessive, and have worked to their detriment both as players and students. The salutary rule that no student who is on

probation for neglect of study shall take part in a public athletic contest has not worked so effectually in football as in the other sports, since the returns of the November examination have not always been made before the final contest. But this difficulty will doubtless be remedied without delay.

*Extract from Report of Colonel O. H. Ernst, the Superintendent of the U. S. Military Academy, on the subject of Athletics at the Academy, December 12, 1893*

. . . It may be assumed at the outset that the physical development of cadets is sufficiently provided for in the regular curriculum, or, if not, that improvements in that direction should be made in a more systematic way than by the mere encouragement of voluntary athletic sports. If needed at all, they should be made to apply to all cadets. Football is to be considered as a recreation and a sport, and not as a means of instruction. The important questions concerning it are: 1. What are its effects upon scholarship? 2. What are its effects upon discipline? 3. Is it unduly dangerous to life and limb? 4. Is it too expensive? 5. Should the annual match game between the cadets and the cadet midshipmen be permitted?

I. *Effect upon scholarship.*—Any innocent amusement which during the hours set aside for recreation will take the mind of the cadet absolutely away from his books will benefit him. He will return to his studies refreshed and invigorated, and the net result of his day's work will be greater than if his entire time had been devoted to them. Football accomplishes this object more completely than any other known game. Its effects in that respect are not confined to the actual players, but extend to practically the entire corps of cadets. From one-quarter to two-thirds of the corps may be seen looking on or taking part in the daily

practice games, while with all it is a subject of absorbing interest and conversation, and at the match games on Saturday afternoons nearly the entire corps are present, exhibiting every sign of the most enthusiastic enjoyment. Is the excitement too great? Does it extend beyond the hours of recreation and interfere with studies? If it does the effect should be noticeable among the thirty-one cadets constituting the first and second teams and supernumeraries. These have been in regular training, have devoted all their spare moments since the 1st of September to practice, and have undoubtedly given more thought to the game than any other cadets. To obtain specific information with reference to their progress in studies, I addressed to the members of the academic board a circular letter. I invited them at the same time to express their views upon the subject of athletics in general as now practised at this place. The perusal of their replies shows wide differences of opinion.

Of the players in the first class, in the case of Cadet Bn. there was not much room for further improvement for he was already at or near the head of his class, being first in general merit at the last June examination. He held his own. Of the others, two showed decided improvement, one held his own, one showed loss in two subjects and gain in two, with a preponderance of loss, and one showed decided loss in all. In this class, upon the whole, was more gain than loss.

In the next class two cadets lost places in both branches of study. Both of them had been over last year's course twice, having been turned back in June, 1892. As is usual in such cases, a decided fall in class standing occurred after entering upon a new course of studies, and would have occurred independently of football. All of the others gained in one branch of study while losing in the other, or held their own in one while

gaining in the other, or gained in both. Among them is Cadet St., who stands second in his class in philosophy and who held his own. In this class the gain in scholarship exceeded the loss.

In the third class are twelve players. Of these, three gained in both branches of study, and four gained in one while losing in the other. Among them was Cadet Sn., who stood first in general merit at the last June examination. He lost standing. In this class the loss exceeded the gain.

In the fourth class are four players. As this class had not been arranged according to merit at the beginning of the term, there are no figures for determining the effect upon them, except in the case of Cadet C., who, in the opinion of the professor, will be first in his class in mathematics, and who has the fourth best mark in English studies.

The figures given are of course not to be taken in any individual case as a direct measurement of the effects of football. The greater or less aptitude of the student for the new studies taken up in September always causes many variations in class standing. But taken as a whole, they indicate that the general effect of the game upon the scholarship of those taking the most active part in it is not injurious. There are exceptions, but that is the general result. If not injurious to these, then the general net result to the entire corps of cadets must be beneficial, if my assumption be correct that complete distraction from books during the hours of recreation is beneficial.

This does not include the subsequent effect of the match game at the end of the season.

II. *Effect upon discipline.*—There are no figures which can be used as an indication of the effect upon discipline as in the case of scholarship, but there are some considerations from which certain conclusions may

be drawn. The discipline of the corps has been good and remains good. With very few exceptions the offences are of a minor character, due to boyish heedlessness. I cannot see that they are any more or less in number than they were formerly. But there are two offences of not uncommon occurrence which have for many years defied the efforts of the authorities to eradicate them—smoking, and hazing new cadets.

At one time even the attempt to prevent smoking was abandoned, and for many years the practice was permitted. It is now forbidden, but the difficulty of enforcing the regulation is as great as ever. The training rules which the football players adopt while in training prohibit smoking. This by demonstrating the value of the regulation cannot but aid in its enforcement.

Hazing new cadets has been the object of severe repressive measures for many years. Time and again the authorities have flattered themselves that it was eradicated, but new instances have not been slow to follow. Among the cadets who went to Annapolis this year were four members of the fourth class. They had been selected by the cadets themselves. The search among the new cadets for their superior physical qualities which this implies cannot but aid in reducing the tendency to hazing.

At first glance it might seem that if any special privileges were granted to football players it would be favoritism, which would be resented by other cadets and would be injurious to discipline. It must be remembered that the players are selected by the cadets themselves, and not by the authorities. It is probable that many distinctions might be made without causing the non-players to consider the players more favored than themselves. As a matter of fact, however, the only distinctions have been that the players were pro-

vided with a special training table in the mess hall, were excused from marching to supper in order to take that meal a little later than the others, and were permitted to go to Annapolis.

The special training table constituted a daily object lesson in the effect of sober living upon the human frame, which can hardly fail to be of much practical value.

Dress parades for the entire battalion were omitted during November. That ceremony at that season loses much of its practical value, on account of the cold, since overcoats and benumbed fingers are not favorable to precision.

In all other respects the full programme of military and academic duty has been carried out by all.

The officers of the Academy have as a rule taken a lively interest in the game, and have contributed largely by voluntary subscriptions toward paying its expenses. This has produced a kindlier feeling by the cadets toward their officers, which I think is favorable to discipline. The minor punishments in the way of deprivation of recreation hours become more potent as the value of those hours in the mind of the cadet is increased. The surplus animal spirits of the young men finding a vent in football are much less likely to find it in mischievous pranks.

Upon the whole I conclude that the game is an aid to discipline.

III. *Danger to life and limb.*—The post surgeon has prepared, at my request, a statement of the casualties which occurred during the months of September, October, and November in football, riding, and gymnastics. Fifty-two casualties occurred in football, of which 9 were serious; 40 casualties occurred in riding, of which 2 were serious; 9 occurred in gymnastics, of which 1 was serious. Ultimate recovery is



expected in all cases. During November, 11 casualties occurred in football, and 34 in riding. A new class began riding in November. Among players elsewhere a number of fatal accidents during the same period were reported in the public press. With its present methods and rules the game appears to be dangerous to life and limb, but probably not much more so than riding, and much less so than coasting in winter or swimming in summer. This feature has attracted the attention of observers elsewhere, and the sentiment appears to be general that the methods of play must be changed. It is probable that the game will be less objectionable in that respect hereafter than it is now. It is perhaps unnecessary to state that the brutality which has been reported to have occurred at some places does not exist here. As played here the game is rough, with an element of danger, but not brutal.

IV. *Expense.*—The total amount expended this year in athletics was \$4219.71, of which \$3623.70 was devoted to football, including the cost of the training table, \$506.20 over and above the cost of ordinary board. Of the football expenses the cadets paid \$1438.40, including the training table, and the remaining \$2185.30 was contributed by the Army Officers' Athletic Association, or by subscription of the officers and professors stationed here. This latter subscription fell heavily upon some. Clearly cadets cannot afford to play football without some outside assistance. There appears, however, to be no difficulty in procuring such sums of money as may be necessary.

V. *Should the annual match game between the two National Academies be permitted?*—What has been said of the effects of football upon discipline and scholarship refers to the general effect during the three months prior to the match and not to the match itself. The latter has undoubtedly for some days a bad influence upon

both. The excitement attending it exceeds all reasonable limit. Whether the injurious effects at this time are sufficient to counterbalance the good effects obtained previously is somewhat a matter of speculation. I am inclined to think that thus far they have not been, but I should expect the excitement over this match, if it should be regularly established, to increase from year to year and eventually result in unmistakable injury.

The argument in favor of the match is that some kind of match game with a foreign team at the end of the season is considered necessary to keep up the interest in the game. The season's work (or play) is the preparation for a contest. It is quite impossible for the cadets to compete upon equal terms with the students of other institutions such as Harvard, Yale, or Princeton (though they have played this year with teams from two of them), for the reason that those students give much more time to practice than the cadets can give. This points to the Naval Academy as their natural and only real competitor. To stop the annual match will be to remove much of the vitality from a game which plays an important and, as I believe, useful part in the life of a cadet.

The four matches which have been played have engendered an intense rivalry, not without a shade of bitterness, which does not tend toward improving the relations between the two services.

The match constitutes a distinct and, in my judgment, dangerous departure from the traditions of this institution. The corps of cadets are required to accomplish more work in a given time than any other set of young men anywhere. They accomplish this without extraordinary exertion because of the regularity of their lives and the continuity of their application. Absence from the restraints of West Point, brief though it be, renders them irksome for some time thereafter. For this reason



it has always been the rule to grant very few leaves of absence. With the exception of the furlough at the end of the second year, they are never given except in cases of emergency, and to a few specially meritorious cadets at Christmas as a reward for exemplary conduct. This system receives a violent shock from the match game. While thirty cadets are allowed to go to Annapolis to play football, it will not be easy to say to the cadet whose mother is ill or whose sister is to be married that the rules of the Academy forbid his absence for even a day.

*Conclusions.*—My conclusions are that football as controlled here has been beneficial to scholarship and an aid to discipline, and should receive a proper degree of encouragement; but that the match game with the Naval Academy has done much to undo these good results, and will, if continued, entirely undo them, and being objectionable otherwise should not be permitted to recur.

*From the "American Journal of the Medical Sciences,"*  
 September, 1894. *Football and the physique of its devotees from the point of view of physical training.* By Henry G. Beyer, M. D., Ph. D. (Johns Hopkins University), Surgeon, U. S. Navy

We deem ourselves rather fortunate in succeeding in getting the measurements of five visiting "teams," the success being almost entirely due rather to the winning and persuasive ways of some of my more diplomatic associates on the athletic committee than to my own efforts.

The points that were more especially taken notice of were the age, height, weight, lung-capacity, and "total strength" of each individual player, and the position which he occupied on the field.

1. *Height.* As regards height, I may at once dismiss this item by stating that there never was any appreciable change produced in it during the above-mentioned period of two months' training.

2. *Weight.* As regards the influence of football on the weight of the players, a most decided increase has been noticed. The average increase in weight which was observed and calculated from seventeen players, examined in the fall of 1882, immediately before and after the period of training, with regard to this point, was found to be 3.6 kilos, or 7.9 pounds. The same observations, being repeated on twenty-five players in the fall of 1893, resulted in showing an average increase of 3.28 kilos, or 7.2 pounds.

3. *Lung-Capacity.* On October 15, 1892, the first examination of seventeen players was made with regard to their lung-capacities, and at the end of November the second examination was made. The result of these two examinations was quite surprising, for all the men, except two, came back with the same lung-capacity on their second examination that they had shown on their first. The only increase that had taken place was noted in the two half-backs—who, as is well-known, have to do a great deal of running during the game. Thinking that it was possible that the lung-capacity increased in the beginning of the period of training, and that I ought to have taken my first observations on the 1st instead of the 15th of October, the same observations were repeated this year (1893) on the twenty-five players. The results show that the twenty-five players, after a two months' course of training on the football field, exhibit an increase in lung-capacity of eleven cubic inches, or an average increase of 3.9 per cent. of their original lung-capacity. Notice, however, that the percentage amount in increase in weight is 0.8 higher than that of the lung-capacity, a circumstance of some weight in its

relation to the subject of "vital index," or the result of a simple division of lung-capacity by weight, and to which we shall again refer later on.

4. *Total Strength.* The average increase in total strength of the seventeen players examined in the fall of 1892 was 105 kilos, or about 16.4 per cent. of their original strength, and that of the fifteen players noted in the fall of 1893 amounted to 85 kilos, or 14.2 per cent. of their original strength. On examining more closely into the distribution of this increase in strength we have found that about 75 per cent. of it extends over the lower extremities and the back, showing that, although all the muscles are engaged in playing the game, there is a quantitative difference of degree.

Before leaving the subject of total strength, I must add what appears to me to be a point of considerable interest. It might quite naturally occur to the reader that this so rapidly acquired strength was but a temporary affair, and would vanish again as quickly as it was acquired. As I was myself under this impression, I searched my records, and found that I was but somewhat mistaken. In the seventeen players of last fall (1892) the maximum loss six months after the close of the season was only 5 kilos, or less than 1 per cent. Thus, no matter what we may find with regard to the staying qualities of the strength acquired through other sports, football strength, according to these observations, seems to stay pretty well.

*Summary.*—In summing up the facts ascertained in the above observations, we obtain as a result of two months' football training on the seventeen players examined in the fall of 1892: (1) No increase in height, (2) no increase in lung-capacity, (3) an average increase of 4.9 per cent. in weight, and (4) an average increase of 16.4 per cent. in total strength. In the twenty-five players examined in the fall of 1893 we get: No increase

in height, an average increase of 4.7 per cent. in weight, an average increase of 3.9 per cent. in lung-capacity, and an average increase of 14.2 per cent. in total strength. In both series of observations we have to record a decrease in vital index.

In some studies made on fifty naval cadets, and published in the report of the Surgeon-General of the Navy for 1893, the following average increases were noted as a result of six months' systematized exercise in the gymnasium, viz. : 0.5 per cent. in height, 1.3 per cent. in weight, 3.8 per cent. in lung-capacity, and 32 per cent. in total strength. The average vital index at the beginning was 0.067 and at the end of the term 0.066, consequently there was a slight decrease. The average age of the fifty cadets was exactly eighteen years.

According to the measurements in our possession of eight oarsmen, including about two months' hard training for a boat race during the spring months of 1893, we are enabled to record the following average increases, viz. : 0.2 per cent. in height, 4.7 per cent. in weight, 7.3 per cent. in lung-capacity, and 28 per cent. in total strength. The vital index at the beginning of the period at hard training was 0.066 and at the end it was found to be 0.068 ; there was, therefore, a slight increase in the latter.

The figures shown, so far as they may be of value, would lead one to conclude that both the regular systematized gymnasium drill and boating would furnish results superior to football. Boating, considering the large percentage of increase in lung-capacity and total strength which it here shows, must be considered the best training of them all.

Has the football field exercised a certain *natural selection* in the choice of its devotees, to complement that of the "coach," or are our fine athletic players indeed creations *de novo* of the football field alone ? We have in

our possession an abundance of material to show that the sport attracts superior types of men from the very start.

(1) The average age of the thirty-six football players is but two months ahead of that of the fifty percentile grade cadet, and represents, therefore, the average cadet so far as age is concerned, in accordance with the fact that players are admitted from all the four classes alike; (2) in height we find the football player in average 4 per cent. superior; (3) in weight he is 28 per cent. superior; (4) in lung-capacity 21 per cent., and (5) in total strength 49 per cent. superior to his average fellow.

Compare him with the fifty percentile grade of the Yale students from tables published by Seaver, and we find that the average American football player is (1) one year and one month older, (2) 2.8 per cent. taller, (3) 20 per cent. heavier, (4) has 10 per cent. more lung-capacity, and (5) is 40 per cent. stronger than the fifty percentile grade of Yale students.

Making, finally, a similar comparison with the Amherst student of the fifty percentile grade, and using for this purpose the tables but recently published by Drs. Hitchcock and Seelye, we find a similar superiority:

	Av. age.	Height.	Weight.	Lung-cap.	Tot. str.	No. obs.
	Yrs. mos.					
Av. American football player	20 8	1773	76	4.55	662	77
Amherst student, 50 per cent.	22 6	1720	61.7	3.77	482	2330
Superiority in per cent.	....	3	23	20	37	....

What, now, it may be asked, have we learned from these observations? Do they prove that gymnastic exercise is a mere fad, and that football is worthless? They do neither; but on the contrary, if they prove anything, they plainly show that, if we have placed the football ideal unadorned on the balance, we have not found it wanting; and while it cannot be considered the best game in the world, and much of its vaunted superiority is due to popular clamor conjured up by the newspapers, it must, nevertheless, be considered as *one* of the best games extant. Based on these observations, we may feel ourselves on much firmer ground than we did before, even if we have to limit our arguments to the point of physical training alone, and cannot from the nature of our enquiries extend our conclusions to the other manifold beneficial results produced by the game, the investigation of which must be relegated to the psychologist.

The greatest danger that threatens football, by unanimous consent, seems to be the introduction of the professional element into its constitution. This, again, must be looked upon as the direct consequence of newspaper clamor.

Unless, therefore, our college faculties will get together and arrange a special selective course leading up to the degree of Bachelor of Athletics, thus dignifying the game at once as a profession, which, I fear, they are not prepared to do, we will have to use a certain amount of discrimination and play football with more moderation, confine the game to the undergraduates and to the college campus if it is to continue to live.

But how about the number of injuries and even deaths that have been recorded as having been produced on the football field? While it must be admitted that accidents may occur here as elsewhere, and in spite of all proper precautions having been taken, it is, nevertheless,



probably also true that, were all the circumstances surrounding these cases known, all the recorded deaths, without an exception, would be found traceable to gross carelessness of one kind or another. At any rate, since we cannot eat our pie and have it too, we shall have to pay a certain amount for the good we derive from it; and, if we should find that our investment does not turn out a gold mine, we may be satisfied with a silver one. But, certainly, all the injuries produced on the football field, in games played between gentlemanly and well-matched players, that have come under our observation have been amenable to treatment and have resulted in perfect cure.

The one precaution mentioned by President Warfield, viz., to make the medical director in charge of physical training omnipotent in excluding boys who are unfit to play in this game by reason of certain physical conditions or injuries existing, cannot be too strongly urged upon college faculties and those who wish to see the game survive.

*Investigation by C. W. Whitney, "Harper's Weekly"*

The futile crusade against football into which the editor of the New York *Evening Post* has recently flung himself with well-developed hysteria and a Roget's Thesaurus would hardly excite comment were it not that undoubtedly many worthy readers of the *Post* are as ignorant—if less irascible—on the subject as is the editor. I pass over the diatribe of a Philadelphia medical trade journal as too absurd even for censure. Mr. Godkin must have been put to sore straits for argument to quote such a hodgepodge of misstatement and ignorance. Nor is it my purpose here to enter into a lengthy refutation of the *Post's* many absurd misstatements about the game. Any student of the times, any common-

sensed man who keeps his eyes and ears open, knows perfectly well, without my telling him, that football and all athletics have done and are doing magnificent work for the physical development and moral betterment of our boys and young men all over the country.

If Mr. Godkin really doubts this I commend to him the editorial columns of the *New York Sun* and *Tribune*, where recently much good matter on this subject has been printed ; and further, to him and to all who question my statement, I commend the Superintendent of the Young Men's Christian Association, which, with its branches all over America, has been one of the most active workers in the good cause. But these facts are patent to all save the editor of the *Post*, who writes : "But the fact is that, however valuable football may be as a means of moral and physical discipline, none of the universities profit by it."

The veriest tyro of a reporter on the *Post's* staff could have told his chief better ; the faculties of Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and of every college in the country would have been glad to tell him how athletics, of which certainly football is an integral part, have elevated the general morale of the undergraduate body by absorbing the animal spirits that formerly were wasted in dissipation. Still further, the reporter could have informed Mr. Godkin that American and English universities have none of the duelling and sanguinary scandals common in European colleges, where football and athletics are not practised ; he could also have told him that only so recently as December 1, the Bavarian War Minister at Berlin publicly declared it to be impossible to do away with duelling ; that if it were abolished "men would have recourse to fisticuffs," and I might add that if football were introduced, there would be no need for legislation on duelling.

A man argues himself an ignoramus when he dis-



putes the value of athletics at our schools and universities in the moral and physical development of boys and young men. There is no need of a sermon on this subject to any thinking father who remembers his own boyhood.

Wading through the columns of vituperation which the *Post* and some of the provincial papers on its exchange list have printed against football, I am able to discover but three points at issue: 1. Does the game play an important part in the education of the boy? 2. Is it brutal? 3. Is the tide of popular favor setting against it?

I have already answered the first. We must have the game; we need it. As for the third, pick up any Western, Southern, or Eastern paper in season and note the attendance at the game and the amount of space the newspaper gives to it.

Now as to the game being brutal. Distinctly it is not, as played by thoroughly trained and competently coached teams. It may be and in some instances has been made brutal, but the same men could make any game brutal. Much has been made by the *Post* over several sad deaths resulting from accidents on the football field. From all I can learn, however, only one received his hurt in a scrimmage, and he was not in condition to play. Most of the "serious accidents" result from a reporter's desire to wax sensational and fill space.

There are two charges which may be brought against the game and sustained: one, that as it has been growing in the last few years it absorbs too much time of the students; the other, that there is not enough open, and too much closed or "mass," play.

Both of these matters will be remedied in the coming year.

Any game that develops so enormously and so rapidly

as has football must of necessity require new rules, as experience teaches their need. But these are to be made only after very careful and thorough consideration by practical, level-headed men, and not by a hysterical editor who knows nothing of the game, or of the grand work athletics are doing for Young America.

Wedges, and all mass plays, flying plays, and interference, will be legislated upon before the next season opens.

And again I wish to propose the University Athletic Club to all colleges as a balance-wheel in this kind of legislation. I regard the club, with its board of governors composed of the most prominent and ablest alumni advisers, as the balance-wheel of college sport.

It is my opinion that this is the very time when it should act, by calling a congress of university men competent to consider and advise on football legislation. The opinions of fifty men such as the club could gather would be invaluable.

As for the time spent on the football field, that also will receive attention, and next year we shall see the game develop along more skilful and more interesting lines.

Let us have an end, therefore, to all this sensational hullabaloo about the game being tabooed. Football will not die out, never fear; it is more firmly implanted in our affections than ever; it will continue to be improved as we learn by experience, and athletics will continue to fill an important rôle in making us "the people."

While the *Evening Post's* football editor, Mr. Godkin, has been allowing his imagination to run riot in sensational accounts of the appalling "brutality of football," I have been busy gathering statistics throughout the country of just how frightful have been the "shocking calamities" of this "terrible" game, and how wide-

spread the "wave of indignation" about which he has been telling his readers. I have written to a trustworthy and painstaking correspondent at the representative colleges of the different sections of the country, and I will let them tell the story in their own language.

University of Virginia: "The men are in very good condition, nor have we had any kind of an accident that laid any one off, notwithstanding the fact that our grounds are very hard."

University of Michigan: "We have had no serious accidents here this fall. Several men have suffered with bruises and sprains at various times, but all are nearly well now, and there is not one of them who will not be perfectly sound in a few weeks. We have had this fall ten different class and department teams, and played the hard game taught by Yale coaches."

University of Wisconsin: "Our record as to accidents this year is a clear one. Each man has played in his place from the beginning of the season till the end, and each has come off without a hurt. During the season we have substituted in games just three times, and the men laid off at those times mended in a day or two so as to go back to practice. In practice games we have been just as fortunate, no one having received any injury of account on our campus. I say fortunate, but it is rather through good handling. Mr. Davis of Princeton has been with us this year and conducted the training of our men. From my experience and observation on the gridiron, I believe that football is no more dangerous or brutal than most other athletic games when played, as it should be, with proper instruction. There have been two fatal accidents from the game in the West this season, but both came from gross carelessness. One was at Delevan, and the man killed was a deaf mute, and, of course, out of his sphere, as a

football player needs all his five senses. The other was a Duluth high-school boy, who was untrained, and knew really nothing of the game. I feel I can say that the men have been improved fifty per cent. in appearance from what they were when they commenced training in the fall. They have all stood the season's work without any apparent inconvenience, have kept up their work in the university, and are among the best students in it."

University of Iowa: "Our team began training September 24, and has had many hard games; but our men, although not in the strictest of training, have finished the season's work in good physical condition. But one of the players has had a day's sickness since the season opened. The only severe injuries sustained by our team were a broken nose, received by a 'scrub' in a practice game, and an injured ear. The men are now in the best physical condition they have been in this year."

Lake Forest University (Illinois): "Our accidents this year have been few, and not of any serious nature. In seven regular games only two players have received any injury, and both of these were not serious. Spraining the ankle or the knee sometimes happens, but its effects only last for a day or so. No one has ever been seriously hurt on our teams in four years. Our boys have stood the season splendidly, and express themselves as feeling better physically for the time spent at the game."

Portland, Oregon: "The only football we have here on this northwestern coast is furnished by the athletic clubs of this city, and Tacoma and Seattle, Washington. The games this season have been better than any ever seen here. The football spirit has increased much, and the standard of the game been raised. There have been no accidents except the ordinary bruises and sprains."

Denver, Colorado: "The Athletic Club team went into training the 1st of September, and the season lasted until Thanksgiving Day, the team playing nine hard games. In all these we have only once been actually compelled to retire a man from the game. He was tackled hard, and in falling struck on his shoulder and dislocated it. He has entirely recovered, and is able to play as well as ever now. The same experience applies to our opponents, as I think none of them, including the 'varsities of Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Boulder, Golden, and Baker, suffered any serious hurt in any of the contests. I might add that every member of the team expresses himself as pleased at being able to play the game, as he feels it so beneficial to health and spirits. Personally, I believe it to be one of the very best forms of exercise, and that its benefits to the participants are as great mentally as physically, to say nothing of the moral effect of the training."

University of Tennessee: "We had some very hard games this season. The only injury that amounted to anything was a sprained wrist, and this did not lay our man off but one week. In our Thanksgiving Day game, which was the hardest fought game I ever saw, no one was hurt, sustaining only the bruises generally received in practice. None of our opponents ever received any injuries to amount to anything."

Northwestern University (Illinois): "Last year we had a team and nine substitutes. Early in the season one of the players whose nose was slender had it broken. It was set, and he was able to play in three days, protected by a nose guard, and has not been troubled since. There were three men who had sprained ankles, and a few were bruised some on their legs and body, but none so that they could not play all season. This year two men were hurt early in the season. One wrenched his leg; the other was a man who dissipated and could not

be made to train, but had a magnificent physique. He went into the game and played hard, receiving a bruise that made him quit practicing. No one on the second eleven, or college, has been badly hurt. Twelve have played on the team and as substitutes for two years, and have received hardly a scratch, never having had time called for them. Six of these have played in every game for two years. I think that the spirit to win at all cost overshadows the true object of the game, namely, physical and *mental* culture. This spirit is what sometimes pollutes college athletics, puts hired athletes in athletic clubs, and prompts one to twist legs or break fingers while underneath a scrimmage."

Dartmouth (New Hampshire): "Our football team has had a very successful year. Very few accidents have happened, and we have been deprived of the services of only one man on this account, whose injury is not serious. I am fully satisfied that the training has been healthful to the men on the team, and in no instance has it been injurious."

University of Kansas: "In regard to accidents and the general condition of our team, I would say that, outside of a couple of sprained ankles and a broken nose, our accidents among thirty-four men amount to nothing. Our men are in better condition now than at any time during the season."

Vanderbilt University (Tennessee): "We have been exceedingly fortunate this season as far as accidents are concerned. Only two men have had noses broken, and several received slight sprains or bruises. We are now in splendid physical condition, and I include in this not only the 'varsity eleven, but all the 'scrubs,' amounting to about forty, which is due largely to good handling."

Wake Forest College (North Carolina): "In regard to the number of players injured here, I will state that three have sprained their ankles, and one an arm. In



the case of the sprained arm, it was the second day that the man had ever played, and was due to his lack of knowledge in falling when tackled. I do not hesitate to say that the cause of the three sprained ankles was because of the very rough condition of our grounds. In one instance especially an end rusher fell and sprained his ankle without coming in contact with either ball or player. We have played match games with neighboring institutions for seven years, and never, without a single exception, has a member of the team broken a bone or received other than very slight injury. In addition, it pleases me to state that the members of the team have at all times received the highest honors bestowed by the literary societies, and have taken a fine stand in their class-rooms."

Williams College (Massachusetts): "During this season we had two men stop playing. One had his collar-bone broken, and the other hurt his leg and was advised to stop. Both have entirely recovered. Our centre was off for a week with a knee out of joint, and a few other men were hurt slightly, but when the season closed every one of them was in better condition and playing better ball than at any other time, and after our last game, with the exception of the half-back, who did most of the rushing, there was not a man laid up from accidents or injuries. When I compare this season with last in base-ball, I find that, with the exception of a broken bone, there were no more men hurt on the eleven than on the nine, and since I have been in college (four years) there has been no man who received permanent injuries. It seems to me that the trouble comes to men who are not in regular training."

Brown University (Rhode Island): "The general physical condition of the Brown team has been very fair, although I certainly am sure we have experienced our share of accidents. A number of the regular eleven

have been laid up regularly at one time or another, but we have finished the season in good shape."

Amherst (Massachusetts): "The team stood the season well. We have been entirely free from serious accidents, broken bones, and the like. The principal injuries to the men have been slight muscle bruises and only temporary affairs. We have met very heavy teams this year, where we were clearly outclassed in weight, but in spite of this our injuries were comparatively slight. I can only emphasize the fact that the team has stood the season well, and every man on it is better for his training. I find that people who never saw the game are the ones who cry loudest against it."

University of North Carolina: "Fifty men started out training for our team this year. Of them all thirty stuck it out through the season. We had numerous accidents, none of which were of a serious nature, and all have entirely recovered. Of course the regular number of sprains and bruises came to the men, but at the close of the season they were in the best physical condition they had ever been in. We have lazy men (indifferent students) that play football, but the men who are looked to as the best are usually those who rank well in their classes. It has been my experience that those who are most violent against football are usually men who are entirely ignorant of the game, and don't want to learn."

Kansas City (Missouri): "Football in the Missouri Valley has taken great strides toward popularity in the past season. The work of all the teams shows a decided improvement over that of last season, and after careful investigation I find that while the teams have had the usual accidents—bruises and sprains—that are expected in a game where there is so much muscular effort, all finished in the best physical condition that the men have ever been in, and fathers are as enthusiastic over foot-



ball as the boys themselves, because of its keeping their sons from the usual dissipation."

San Francisco (California): "Ten thousand people saw the game between the Leland Stanford University and the University of California on Thanksgiving Day, and there is no longer any doubt about the popularity of football out here on the Pacific Coast, and among our most cultured people. I have carefully looked into the physical condition and accidents of not only these two universities, but of the teams of the Olympic and Reliance Athletic Clubs, which are the two largest on the Coast, one in San Francisco, and the other in Oakland. In the two latter cases the players are principally business men. There have been the usual accidents, though the average of bruises and sprains has been small, but I found all the men in better physical condition at the end of the season than they had ever been, and greatly improved by the play. At the universities the football players this year have been among our best students. Football on the Coast has done a great work in checking youthful dissipation."

Near at home the story is about as these letters show it to be throughout the country. I cannot think of any serious accident that has befallen any member of Princeton, Yale, Harvard, University of Pennsylvania, Lehigh, or Cornell elevens. Princeton played through the season without the loss of a man; Yale went through three of the hardest games any eleven ever played without calling on a substitute until the last part of the second half of the Princeton game, when one of their half-backs, who has had a weak ankle nearly all the season, was retired. Harvard began and ended the season with the same men—Waters and Emmons excepted. Waters had a weak knee half the season, and was thrown out of much practice; he should never have gone into the game at Springfield. Emmons was

overtrained, nervous, and half sick, and was hurt in the Pennsylvania game.

Here is a fact for Mr. Godkin and other uninformed carpers to bear in mind: Looking back over ten years of football, we find the hardest games of the year—those between Harvard, Yale, Princeton—to have recorded the least injury to players. And here is another: After careful compilation at Harvard a year or so ago, it was found that of the three thousand students the standard of excellence of athletes for the four years of their course was above the average in class marks.

#### *Dr. Loveland's Investigation*

Obtaining the addresses of 250 players of Yale, Harvard, Princeton, and Wesleyan, 1881-1890 (a few were substitutes), I sent them circular letters of enquiry.

About seventy-five per cent. of the men promptly responded.

I selected the players of the last decade because I wished to reach those who had been out of the sport long enough to get over any transitory effects of the game, and also to get at men who had been out in the world long enough to be able to give a fairly unprejudiced report of their condition.

It must of course be remembered that the game of to-day is not that of five and ten years ago. But in some respects the older game was the rougher, with its bull-dog fight, alias "maul in goal," and its slugging and throttling pleasantries. Moreover, the sharp concussion and violent falls of individual players in tackling one another have always formed a prominent feature of the game just as they do to-day. And "mass plays," although not quite so "mass"-ive and under other names, have always been played, excepting perhaps, the first few years of the eighties.

The first question was to me the most important. My chief object was to ascertain how many of the injuries that I was seeing as physician of a football association remained extant in the after-life of the player. Moreover, I had heard it claimed that football players would remember the sport in after-years by the weaknesses that would crop out. Incidentally I hoped to learn something along this line.

Of the 187 men replying, 39, or a little over 20 per cent., reported some permanent injury. The injuries of course varied greatly in severity and seemed to have greater significance if classed into (*a*) those seriously inconvenient and (*b*) those slightly inconvenient or disfiguring. An example of (*a*) is a loose ligament in the knee joint; of (*b*) an enlarged finger joint or a broken nose. Eighteen or nine and a fraction per cent. were in the first class, and 21 or eleven and a fraction per cent. in the second class. Wesleyan raised the percentage of the first class somewhat. Yale, Harvard, and Princeton together has a percentage of eight and a fraction, while Wesleyan's ran up to nearly 13. Thus is raised a question. Wesleyan has only 200 men to pick from and therefore puts men in the field who are inferior in muscular physique to the representatives of larger colleges. Again, she has played these men not alone against their equals of other small colleges, but often against those superior to them in weight and strength. Is her larger number of casualties due to these facts?

I have classified the injuries according to their location on the body.

## CLASS A. INJURIES BELOW THE KNEE

Sprained ankles, . . . . .	31
“ foot, . . . . .	1
Broken leg, . . . . .	3
“ “small bone,” . . . . .	2
Rupture of tendon of leg, . . . . .	1
“ blood vessel of leg, . . . . .	3
Flesh wounds of shin, . . . . .	4
Strain of leg, . . . . .	2
	<hr/>
Total, . . . . .	47

## CLASS B. INJURIES OF KNEE

Strain of knee, . . . . .	18
Water on knee, . . . . .	5
Dislocated knee, . . . . .	2
“ patella, . . . . .	1
Fracture of cartilage of knee, . . . . .	1
	<hr/>
Total, . . . . .	27

## CLASS C. INJURIES OF THIGH

Strain of thigh muscles, . . . . .	7
Bruise of groin, . . . . .	1
	<hr/>
Total, . . . . .	8

Classes A, B, and C contain eighty-two injuries. Thus a majority of all injuries reported were inflicted on the lower extremities. The ankle fares the worst, with the knee joint a close second. I feel sure that sprained ankles must be much less numerous at present, owing to the admirable ankle guards that are now in vogue. Shin guards also must do away with flesh wounds of the shin, of which four are reported. The same guards must also, by distributing along the leg the force of blows, save some broken legs. The knee is still unprotected. It is impossible to shield it by any kind of sufficient guard that will not interfere with motion. Padding does much good, but cannot protect from the severe wrenches which are so common. Water on the

knee must be more common than reported above. Most any player has himself seen more than five cases. Under strain of knee I have classed all sorts of wrenches of more or less severity. The following is an important item. Nine, or one-half the men who replied yes to the first question and were classed as seriously inconvenienced, were suffering from injured knees. No football rules can protect the knee. The ingenuity of the surgeon in supplying protective apparatus must come to the rescue if the knee is to be saved.

## CLASS D. INJURIES OF TRUNK

Fracture of sternum, . . . . .	1
"    ribs, . . . . .	3
Bruised breast bone, . . . . .	1
Internal injuries, . . . . .	1
Kick in back, . . . . .	2
"    abdomen, . . . . .	1
Intercostal muscles torn, . . . . .	1
Floating ribs separated, . . . . .	1
Dislocation of clavical from sternum, . . . . .	1
Strain of back, . . . . .	4
	<hr/>
Total, . . . . .	16

## CLASS E. INJURIES OF UPPER EXTREMITY

Broken scapula, . . . . .	3
"    clavicle, . . . . .	3
Sprain of shoulder, . . . . .	3
"    elbow, . . . . .	1
"    wrist, . . . . .	3
Rupture of wrist tendon, . . . . .	1
" Broken hand," . . . . .	1
Dislocated thumb, . . . . .	1
Broken thumb, . . . . .	1
Broken finger, . . . . .	2
Dislocated finger, . . . . .	1
Thumb joints enlarged, . . . . .	1
Finger joints enlarged, . . . . .	1
	<hr/>
Total, . . . . .	22

## CLASS F. INJURIES OF HEAD

Concussion of brain, . . . . .	2
Blow of head, . . . . .	1
Kick in head, . . . . .	1
Broken nose, . . . . .	11
Scraped nose, . . . . .	1
Broken cheek bone, . . . . .	1
Incised wounds of face, . . . . .	6
Broken teeth, . . . . .	1
Loosened teeth, . . . . .	1
Black eye, . . . . .	1
Ear torn, . . . . .	1
Ear drum ruptured, . . . . .	1
Total, . . . . .	<u>28</u>

The nose "gets there" before the player, and, as we should expect, is the most punished part of the head. However, broken noses are things of the past since the ferocious nose beak has been worn.

If we reckon the sprained ankles, flesh wounds of shin, rupture of blood vessels of leg, broken noses and scraped noses as preventable by apparatus, we have a total of fifty injuries, or just one-third of those reported. This is a fair estimate, as we have left out "broken legs," which must be much guarded against by a proper shin guard.

Doubtless many men have been overtrained to their knowledge, but without appreciable injury. Overtraining has been of several kinds—of the stomach, of the muscular system (including the heart), and of the general system. Some have claimed that the last variety occurs when men are allowed to play too many years. Overtraining of all kinds is being rapidly eliminated in these days and does not present the most serious aspect of the subject of football. Of the 187 replying 11 said they overtrained, 3 were doubtful, and 3 omitted to answer the question. The 11 overtrained

in the following ways: 1 always felt tired while training except during a game; 2 specified indigestion; 1 found it difficult to accustom himself to a sedentary life after leaving college; 1 had muscular twitchings in his legs, when walking, for four years after leaving college. Of the 11, 7 specified their difficulty as temporary. As stated above, probably different answers would have been sent in if overtraining without injury had been the subject of the question. To about one-half the circulars I appended the question, "Did you gain weight while training?" It occurred to me after having sent out the first half that the fact that a man gained weight while training would be pretty clear evidence that he was not overtrained, although this would prove nothing negatively, as a man could lose weight in many instances without being overtrained. Of 90 men, 47 gained; 9 did not lose; 4 lost at first and gained later; 2 lost fat; 1 lost if worried; 11 lost; of the 11 one-half gained after the season ended. So that, on the theory of weight, 62 at least out of 90 did not overtrain.

Of the 187, 179 reported a good effect on the general health. Many took occasion to be very emphatic; 5 were uncertain; 1 saw no effect; 1 saw no harmful results; 1 thought the effect was bad, but in connection with too much other athletic and college work. Question IV. Physical development. 180 returned a good effect; 3 saw no effect; 2 were doubtful; 2 couldn't separate the effect from that of other sports. I did not ask for specifications as to the parts developed, but of those that specified voluntarily, by far the larger number reported a general development. Quite a number were impressed with their chest improvement.

A surgeon would probably decide against the game, but the above statistics are too meagre in several ways to warrant any positive conclusions. It was not



expected that the statistics would be conclusive, but it was hoped they would throw some light on the subject, and be suggestive and perhaps a stepping-stone to other investigations. My experience shows me that there are many difficulties in the way of such an investigation. And it must be acknowledged that the surgeon must proscribe many other sports in the same way. Many deaths result every year from hunting, sailing, and horseback and carriage riding; many knees and ankles are sprained every month by the bicycle, by cross-country runs, and even by tennis and pedestrianism.

It must also be admitted that the subject is not fully discussed when the surgeon leaves it. The surgeon is a sort of materialist and is fond of material well being.

One reply claims that sports like football prevent dissipation. There is doubtless much truth here. Youthful energy must and will find a way to expand itself. It may be expedient to allow this energy to expend itself on football. The game of football is to-day the natural expression of the tastes of vigorous overflowing youthful energy. The same can be said of all college pranks, including hazing. Natural tastes often have to be curbed or even completely subjugated. And student life in our universities to-day is becoming more self-controlled. This sport remains as an outlet for overflow animal life. Something will be broken somewhere or somehow, if it is not allowed to escape.

Another line of suggestion claims that youth courts risks, and that the hot blood of youth cannot develop muscle and bone without destroying some muscle and bone any more than the energy of maturity can accomplish intellectual and commercial results without destroying some brain tissue along with its possessor. Almost any thing in life that is worth doing has its risks and uses up physical and mental material. No one will claim that youth should take no risks when it simply is a



preparation for mature life which is full of "risks." If our nation survives, the man of the future must be able to elbow his way among rough men in the foul air of primary elections ; he may need courage enough to take his part in vigilant and safety committees and the like ; he may need to "tackle" an anarchist now and then and perhaps oftener. Where shall he develop his courage? Can he do it where there is no physical danger? If the game of football has a moral and mental side to it, if it furnishes good ideals of courageous manhood and of physical excellence to those who play it and to those who look on, if it can rescue the dude from his namby-pambyism, then play football. Guard it from professionalism and extremes ; improve it.

*Opinion of the Physician to Rugby School\**

With respect to the much-abused and healthy game of football, the chief outcry, periodically raised, is against the game as played according to "Rugby rules."

That accidents do happen at football, and when played under "Rugby rules," is beyond question. But to whom do they usually happen? Almost invariably to grown men who have excelled in past years, but who have now lost their elasticity, are out of training and flabby, and have increased in weight and lost the old knack of playing. To these players the game may be injurious—that is to say, the good obtained may not counterbalance the risk incurred ; though even of this I am not sure. But I trust the time is far distant when football, as a winter game, is to be removed from our

\* Extract from writings of Clement Dukes, M. D., B. S. Lond., Member of the Royal College of Physicians of London ; Physician to Rugby School ; Senior Physician to the Hospital of St. Cross, Rugby ; Howard Medallist of the Royal Statistical Society of London.

schools, unless some equally active and exciting game is substituted.

The outcry against all games, whether football, rowing, riding, or tennis, for example, should not be levelled against the games themselves, but against those who are not in a fit condition to play at the particular moment.

The man who is unwise enough to think that, because he has been the best football player at school, he can always play hard, without previous and prolonged training, is sure to meet with accidents. He who, having once been in his university eight, assumes in subsequent years that he may, without fresh training, row hard in a "scratch" race with impunity, is certain to over-try his heart—with a popular clamor against boating, as the result. Those who incur the sprains of the rider and of the lawn tennis player are almost invariably those who ride hard and play hard at the beginning of the seasons, when they are out of training and condition.

I maintain, from nearly twenty-three years' experience, that football, as played at our schools, by young, elastic, light boys, highly trained, and always at it, is—where bear-play and the spleen of the bully are kept down by the conscientious reporting, without fear or favor, to headquarters, of every infringement of legitimate play—a great gain to schools and attended very rarely by accidents, and those seldom of a serious nature. The way in which accidents most frequently happen when playing football at school is when boys play with men : and thus the "sides" are not of the same size and weight.

My experience does not enable me to recognize either the justice or prudence of parents in raising an outcry against football, as played at our schools. That it has its accidents, like, but not worse than, cricket, boating, jumping, the gymnasium, and every other boys' game, no one will gainsay ; but its benefit to boys far out-

weighs its evil effects, and all who know anything of it from experience, and not from hearsay, will admit this.

*Drs. White and Wood in "North American Review"*

Let us regard intercollegiate athletics as supplementary to a well-devised system of physical education such as ought to exist at every university and college. The noteworthy contests (exclusive of track athletics which tend to develop specialists in whom one set of muscles is over-developed, but which are of undoubted value to the student body) are those which take place on the river, the base-ball field, the tennis court, and cricket ground. Which of them best fulfils the requirements of an ideal exercise?

Rowing, as practised to-day, develops chiefly the muscles of the back and hips; it does little for the front arm, practically nothing for the pectoral muscles. Base-ball makes but little demand on the left arm or the left side of the chest. Cricket and tennis are also usually "right-sided" games. None of them is to be compared with football in the direction of bringing *all* muscles in play. And, moreover, in none of them except rowing is the preliminary training so valuable in strengthening the great involuntary muscles, those of the heart and diaphragm, observed with any thing like equal strictness.

Certainly whatever physical good can be received from any form of college athletics can be obtained from football, while above all others it tends to develop self-control, coolness, fertility of resource, and promptness of execution in sudden emergencies involving perhaps personal danger. In other words, no known game compares with football in the development in the individual of those qualities which, while they are sometimes spoken of as the "military virtues," are of enormous value to their possessor in all the struggles of

life. A further advantage of football over the other forms of college athletics is that it appeals to a much larger proportion of the men. Thus, probably not more than fifty men in any way take part in the annual training for crews at Pennsylvania ; but during the present season, 1893, what with the 'varsity team, the scrub teams, the various class teams, and the number of voluntary teams made up of the students, at least 160 men have played the game, many of them daily. About the same number played at Harvard.

But to those of us who believe that in the life of a boy the occurrence of injuries not severe enough to leave permanent traces is not necessarily an evil, but often even a positive good by encouraging fortitude, manliness, and high spirit, the question as to the danger of football in our colleges is only to be answered by statistics.

About this time last year the question of the occurrence of fatal or of permanently disabling injury to any football player at these four institutions [Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and Pennsylvania] for the previous decade was submitted by one of the writers to the special authority on the subject in each faculty. The replies, still in his possession, were sent after careful investigation, and established conclusively the fact that *no instance of any permanent injury to a player had occurred in all the long series of contests waged during those ten years on the football field.* We ask that until contradictory and well-sustained evidence be brought forward this statement be accepted on the authority of Dr. Sargent of Cambridge ; Dr. Seaver of New Haven ; Dr. Macdonald of Princeton ; and Dr. White of Philadelphia. We may add that Dr. Hitchcock has written us that no player has ever suffered permanent injury at Cornell. We know that so far as intercollegiate football among these universities is concerned, the fore-

going is true of 1893 also, and we think this fact greatly lessens the force of the objection based on the physical dangers of the game.

We have had, as has been said, about 160 men playing football during the year 1893 at Pennsylvania, and without a single broken bone or a seriously injured joint, or any accident disabling a player from continuing either his football or his academic duties for any length of time. We do not mean to deny the existence of physical danger, but we believe it possible to minimize it and yet retain all the most useful features of the game, and we are urgent for such a revision of rules as shall bring this to pass. We do insist, however, that the spectacular character of football and the frequency of sprains, wrenches, fractures, and other severe or minor injuries occurring in the presence of such multitudes have together led to unintentional and not unnatural exaggeration of the seriousness of football. The accidents of aquatic sports, of horseback riding, of shooting, are vastly beyond and above those of football. In 1890, 4442 males were drowned in the United States, and 2336 died from gunshot wounds; a large minority of the former died in the pursuit of aquatic sports, while, probably, a large majority of the latter died from accidents occurring with firearms made or used for sport. We have not had time to get together the statistics of aquatic sports in the colleges, but it is noteworthy that within two or three years Princeton lost, by drowning, Brokaw from its baseball team, and Lamar from its football team; while Cornell, where aquatics are cultivated so widely and successfully, has in the same way lost at least three of its athletes in the present year.

As to the effect of football upon the individual student who enters the team, the most frequently repeated objection is that the intellectual is being sacri-

ficed to the physical, and that the man who plays football must almost of necessity neglect his studies. This, again, as we want clearly to point out, is not an objection to football *per se*, but an objection to all college athletics. As a matter of fact much of the preliminary training for football is done during the vacation period, and certainly more hours are given by the men on the crew in the scholastic period to athletic duties than are required of the football candidates.

As this article is not a general defence of college athletics, we must content ourselves with the statement that, after careful investigation, we do not believe football has had the effect of lowering the general average academic standard of either players or onlookers at any of the above mentioned universities. There has not been time to secure all the actual figures, but such good observers as Professor Richards of Yale and Professor Sloane of Princeton are convinced that while the scholarship of the most active players may suffer a little a few weeks before the close of the season, it loses nothing whatever by the end of the year.

Of the four or five members of the Pennsylvania football team of 1892 who have now graduated, one, the captain, won in competitive examination the greatest prize the university offers to its medical class, a position in its hospital; another, who was first honor man of his class, has been made professor in the university, and still another was on the honor list. In this year's team the same proportion seems likely to continue. At Princeton two of the eleven are on the honor list and five are "far above mediocrity." At Yale the average standing of the sixteen members of the academic department who have been connected with the football team this term as players and substitutes is higher than the average standing of the best class in scholarship that has ever graduated there. At Cornell Professor



Hitchcock finds that "the men on the intercollegiate athletic teams have a standing 1.2 per cent. better than the average of the whole college." If we were selecting from any college the young men most likely to endure the strains of business or professional life in this country, and to score successes, we would be disposed to estimate at much more than 1.2 per cent. the actual working superiority of the football players over their classmates.

It is not a little thing that an American community shall cease for a moment its worship of the golden calf, even if it find a no more worthy idol than a football player, for that player is an impersonation of long-continued self-denial, of severe toil, of stoicism under pain, of persistent struggle for an object which is but an ideal.

We believe that it is better for the people of North America to cultivate rather than repress this sudden growth of national sport. To cultivate is to prune, and we are among those who ask earnestly, not only for the suppression of rough and foul play, but for such modification of the rules as shall lessen the danger to life and limb. It seems to us that the first of these alterations should lead to the elimination of the so-called "mass play." The old open game, more beautiful, less dangerous, perhaps more scientific, should, if possible, be brought back.

We believe it to be essentially the best and manliest of all intercollegiate sports.

*From H. H. Almond, of Loretto, in the "Nineteenth Century." "Football as a Moral Agent"*

When the complaint was made to a well-known head-master that British boys talked far too much about football and cricket, he answered, "And what do French

boys talk about?" His reply was to the point ; but he might well have added that it was extremely important for all those who had to do with boys to have a thorough acquaintance with the subjects about which they did talk, even if that talk was overdone.

Football has always existed at our greater schools. But these schools have greatly increased in numbers, and others of a similar type have sprung up all over the country. Now these schools do not pretend to supply a better intellectual education than may be obtained in the heart of our large towns. Their main purpose is to deliver boys at the critical age of growth, who are receiving a complete education, from the sedentary habits almost inseparable from life in great cities. Football, being the best available form of winter exercise, has consequently spread from the older schools to many others. It has been played under many forms, but these are reducing themselves to two. Both of these are becoming more organized, scientific, and competitive ; and it may safely be asserted that, wherever either of them has taken fair root, it is winning the heart of boyhood more than any other winter game or occupation. Nor is this new enthusiasm confining itself to schools. The overcrowded rivers of the universities are being relieved by the goals ; clubs are springing up all over the country ; and every available piece of ground near many of the great manufacturing towns is already being used for football. Does not this movement require some recognition and some guidance ?

The first national match by Rugby rules was played at Edinburgh in 1870. The first really national match by Association rules was played at Glasgow in 1872. Since this time the progress of football has been uninterrupted, and I may say tremendous. I have, *e. g.*, known of two Scotch schools which played eight fifteens each on the same day against each other. The result of the



first only would be telegraphed; and nearly every country village in many counties would be the scene of unreported matches and games. In all large centres, however, an extra staff of telegraphists is employed on Saturdays for football events alone. These facts all tend to show that the players are a very small proportion indeed of those who are taken into the open air by football and who take a lively interest in its results. As an instance of this, I may mention that the final tie for the English Association Cup in 1893 was played at Manchester before about 40,000 persons.

Now to assert that all this is good news is to say what never could be said with truth about any great movement or interest among men. But it is certainly most significant news. There are, of course, a large number of people who will say that the physical danger of football outweighs all possible advantages.

In my own personal experience, I have had to do with football for thirty-five years. At no school with which I have been connected has there ever been a death; I can remember one broken leg among boys, and one among men, and I think three broken arms. Nor do I recollect hearing of a single directly fatal accident among Scotch clubs which play Rugby rules, and only of one indirectly fatal accident. The experience, I may add, of the greatest living authority on school health, Dr. Clement Dukes of Rugby School, is similar to mine. My impression is, though I cannot adduce facts to prove it, that the majority of the serious accidents arise out of the rough and foul play which seems to be a necessary result of professionalism and of the allied system of cup ties. Whenever the game ceases to be played in a sportsmanlike spirit, players are to be found who wantonly injure opponents with a view of putting them *hors de combat* when this can be done in such an underhand way that malicious purpose cannot be posi-

tively proved. Generally, from all the evidence I can collect, the following conclusion seems justified: Amateur football, when the public opinion of the players condemns foul play and the infliction of wilful injuries as criminal and odious, is not more dangerous than almost any winter game or sport which is active enough to promote a vigorous muscular development and high animal spirits. It is less dangerous than hunting, and infinitely less dangerous, in the long run, than abstinence from open-air exercise on the part of those who lead a generally indoor life. In a word, by developing the chest and the limbs, by quickening the circulation and purifying the blood, football saves far more lives than it destroys.

It is an incalculable blessing to this country that such a sport is so enthusiastically beloved by almost all that part of our boyhood whom nature has endowed with strong passions and overflowing energies. Its mere existence and the practical lessons which it preaches are worth all the books that have been written on youthful purity. I can say for myself that, under the circumstances of the luxurious and self-indulgent habits in which boys are increasingly brought up at home, the constant panic lest they should suffer any pain, the absence of apprehension lest their moral and physical fibre should become feeble by disuse, and the tendency of the examination system to make the development of character a secondary consideration, I would not care to face the responsibility of conducting a school were there not rooted in it, as I hope, an imperishable tradition, an enthusiastic love of football.

It is not necessary to dwell on the tendency of football to foster that virtue that is most closely allied to purity, and without which no nation could be either great or truly prosperous, viz., the virtue of courage. Some such influence is sorely needed. What is called

the modern spirit is not favorable to courage. An instance of this comes readily to hand in the prevalent sentimental objection to corporal punishment, and in favor of punishments like lines and detentions, which keep a boy indoors when he ought to be out of doors, or like penal drill, the indirect evil of which is, I think, even greater. But the football scrummage is a great educator. I know boyish opinion pretty well, and can bear witness to a wholesome reaction among them against all punishments which are *not* corporal, and generally against any unmanly shrinking from pain—a feeling which I have known to show itself in a prejudice against the use of anæsthetics in minor operations, as well as in other ways.

After this expression of opinion, which is possibly shocking to the *Zeitgeist*, I hope that I may to some extent propitiate this spirit by saying that football, when taken by the hand and guided, may be made the training ground of a virtue which is so far modern that it has not yet acquired a distinctive name. I mean the duty of keeping one's self in vigorous health, founded on a knowledge that this is generally possible.

From this point of view it is well for this crowded little island of ours that the athletic movement has assumed such a universal and irresistible form as it has done in the case of football.

I have never yet known a genuine Rugby forward who was not distinctively *a man*.

*Extracts from "The Yale Courant" and "Scribner's Monthly"*

*The Yale Courant* in an editorial, October 17, 1868, speaks thus of base-ball, which was just then acquiring great popularity: "We are not an admirer of the national game. As to the amount of amusement to be obtained by this means it is just about what might be

extracted from a certain number of sand-bags, basswood clubs, and cannon-balls by educated, enlightened men under other circumstances. On the question of bodily damage we would suggest that the immense increase of accident insurance companies is probably due to no other cause, and *if the mania does not presently cease the country will be without able-bodied men.*"

*Scribner's Magazine* of June, 1872, after relegating base-ball to the ranks of gambling and rowdyism characteristic of regattas and horse races, makes use of these words : " During these years the game of croquet has been steadily gaining ground, and to-day its devotees not without justice claim for it the distinction of the true and only national game of America."

## CHAPTER II

### STATISTICS OF UNIVERSITY AND SCHOOL PLAYERS AS COLLECTED BY THE COMMITTEE

LETTERS were sent out :

1. To every player on the Harvard, Princeton, and Yale teams since the introduction of the Rugby game in 1876 (one of these lists included all substitutes, the other two did not, but the proportions turned out approximately the same, however).

2. To every player on college teams of 1893.

3. To every school where a team was organized.

Results : Up to April 10 something over one thousand answers had been received, showing :

#### PHYSICAL EFFECT

Statistics of physical effect of the game of football upon players (in comparison with Dr. John Edward Morgan's statistics of benefit and injury attributable to boating).

Harvard, Yale, and Princeton players, 1876-1894 inclusive. Number of answers received, 337 in all.

Number of men who considered themselves benefited,	328
“ “ “ “ injured,	3
“ “ failed to reply,	2
“ “ considered it had no effect	4

Other colleges (1893 players). Number of men 359 in all.

Number of men who considered themselves benefited,	357
“ “ “ “ injured,	1
“ “ “ it had no effect,	1

Schools (1893 players). Number of men, 364 in all.

Number who were considered injured, . . . . .	10
“ “ “ not affected . . . . .	6
“ impossible to say, or indefinite, . . . . .	13

#### MENTAL EFFECT

Yale, Harvard, and Princeton, 337 in all.

Number who considered themselves benefited, . . . . .	320
“ “ effect bad, . . . . .	2
“ “ “ nil, . . . . .	13
No answer, . . . . .	2

Other colleges, 359 in all.

Number who considered themselves benefited, . . . . .	343
“ “ effect bad, . . . . .	7
“ undetermined, . . . . .	8
“ who considered effect nil, . . . . .	1

Schools, 364 in all.\*

Number on whom the faculty considered the effect bad, 7
“ “ “ “ not affected, 6
“ “ “ “ indefinite, un-
determined, . . . . . 13

#### PERMANENT INJURIES

So much has been said regarding the great extent of these injuries and the seriousness of them that we give the exact words of every man who replied otherwise than “No” to the question of the permanency of any injury received.

Of permanent injuries to Yale, Harvard, and Princeton players from 1876-1893 inclusive there were twenty-three cases. These were the only ones where men have not answered flatly that they have no present reminder of their football injuries.

\* Some of the head-masters answered only generally, not specifying for each player.

These replies are as follows :

*Harvard*

No. 595. Played 8 years, says, "Physically the very best and long lasting. Mentally enabled me, and still does enable me, to do a larger quantity of mental work. Injury, a strain of the wrist which might affect my chances of getting on a 'varsity team, but for ordinary purposes is no defect.

No. 602. Played 8 years. Tooth knocked out. Consider both physical and mental effect good.

No. 680. Played 11 years. Broken nose, affected one nostril, but since bored out. Both physically and mentally very *good*. I think the mental training in confidence, cool-headedness, judgment, quickness in action, determination, and self-control far outweighs any risk of accident.

No. 1189. Played 7 years. Physically and mentally very good. Had tooth extracted by a fellow catching his glove in it. Tooth replaced; several years after, however, it was again knocked out.

No. 1194. Played 9 years. Broken ligament in thumb. It is weaker than other. Physically and mentally good. I am much more bothered by a wrist sprained by being thrown from a horse than by all my few football injuries put together.

No. 667. Played 6 years. Injury to ribs. Feel it somewhat when overtired. Physically and mentally decidedly good.

No. 648. Played 8 years. Injury to ear, deaf, and broken wrist. Latter partially recovered. Physically and mentally decidedly good, also morally.

No. 542. Played 6 years. Broken ligament in knee. Mentally and physically bad: See letter.\*

\* This letter is published later in this book.



No. 626. Played 7 years. Broken nose. Physically and mentally most emphatically good.

No. 588. Played 10 years. Broken ligament in knee. Physically and mentally good.

No. 636. Played 3 years. Broken ligament in knee. Knee occasionally slips. Physically and mentally decidedly good.

No. 680. Played 12 years. Broken nose. Impaired breathing somewhat. Physically good, mentally bad.

### *Yale*

No. 1137. Played 6 years. Broken ligament binding down sternal end of right clavicle. Effects most excellent, both physical and mental.

No. 1034. Played 9 years. Wrenched knee, not entirely recovered. No special effect upon me except to give me greater nervous energy. Was twenty-one years old when I entered college.

No. 124. Played 5 years. Injury to knee and broken clavicle. Physically bad, mentally good.

No. 164. Played 5 years. Dislocation of collar-bone. Played next season. Good both physically and mentally.

No. 163. Played 3 years. Never lost a day from injury. Left knee a little weak. Physically and mentally good.

### *Princeton*

No. 891. Played 3 years. Sprained knee, think the weakness permanent. Physically and mentally undoubtedly good.

No. 923. Played 6 years. Injured knee; still affects me. Effect physically good, mentally can't say.

No. 21. Played 5 years. Killed nerve of tooth. Tooth subsequently extracted, but artificial crown placed on. Stump satisfactory. Physically and mentally good. The advantages of the game in the way

of physical and mental and moral development justify the risks assumed.

No. 893. Played 7 years. No injury on a college football field. Had nose broken at school by another boy's "cussedness." Physically and mentally eminently good.

No. 904. Played 4 years. Muscle kicked off arm. Physically and mentally good.

No. 33. Played 4 years. Slight injury to nose. Physically and mentally I consider it very good.

#### STANDING IN STUDIES

Princeton men who played in first class matches since 1874 :

	Football.	Base-ball.
First honor men, that is, first in class, . . . . .	1	2
High (above 95 per cent.), . . . . .	23	13
Second (above 90 per cent.), . . . . .	31	17
Good (above 75 per cent.), . . . . .	29	30
Low (50 per cent.), . . . . .	37	34
Failed, . . . . .	8	3
	129	99

Harvard.—Team of 1893. Total number of grades, 163.

Grade A, . . . . .	2	1.2 per cent.
" B, . . . . .	22	13.5 "
" C, . . . . .	68	41.9 "
" D, . . . . .	42	25.2 "
" E, . . . . .	29	17.3 "
	163	

Yale (in decades):

Sport.	Years.	Standing on scale of 4.
Boating, . . . . .	1869-78	2.559
" . . . . .	1878-88	2.52
Base-ball, . . . . .	1869-78	2.595
" . . . . .	1878-88	2.406
Football, . . . . .	1869-78	2.508
" . . . . .	1878-88	2.677

Year of 1893. Of sixteen football players (academic standing) the average standing was higher than the average of the highest class ever graduated.

University of Pennsylvania.—Men of college departments have no marks. They are registered as passed with distinction, passed with honors, not passed.

<i>Team of 1890</i>	
No. 1,	93.4 per cent.
" 2,	96.5 "
" 3,	64.8 "
" 4,	95.7 "
" 5,	79.1 "
" 6,	88.8 "
" 7,	76.6 "
" 8,	81.25 "
" 9,	87.3 "
" 10,	Not passed.
" 11,	Passed.
" 12,	Passed.
" 13,	90.34 per cent.
" 14,	Passed with honors.
" 15,	Passed.

<i>Team of 1891</i>	
No. 1,	84.9 per cent.
" 2,	81.0 "
" 3,	78.0 "
" 4,	93.4 "
" 5,	95.7 "
" 6,	73.1 "
" 7,	93.6 "
" 8,	86.0 "
" 9,	90.3 "
" 10,	80.66 "
" 11,	81.25 "
" 12,	61.75 "
" 13,	80.3 "
" 14,	Passed with honors.
" 15,	Not passed.
" 16,	Passed.
" 17,	Passed.
" 18,	Passed with distinction.

*Team of 1892*

No. 1,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Not passed.
" 2,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Passed with honors.
" 3,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Passed.
" 4,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Passed.
" 5,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	One condition.
" 6,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Passed.
" 7,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	80.6 per cent.
" 8,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	90.3 "
" 9,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	93.1 "
" 10,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	75.0 "
" 11,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	76.6 "
" 12,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	80.3 "
" 13,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	93.4 "
" 14,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	73.1 "
" 15,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	98.0 "
" 16,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	87.3 "

West Point, 1893.—Four classes, A, B, C, D.

"In the first, A class, the gain in marks (scholarship) during the football season exceeded the loss.

"In the second, B class, the gain in marks during the football season exceeded the loss.

"In the third, C class, the loss exceeded the gain.

"In the fourth, D class, four players in the class, but as they were not graded or marked previous to the season, figures are impossible except in case of one cadet. He, in the opinion of his professor, will be first in his class of mathematics, fourth in English studies.

"On the whole the effect is, therefore, upon those taking the most active part in football, not injurious."

### CHAPTER III

#### LETTERS FROM MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY AND HEAD-MASTERS

I WAS much complimented by your letter asking me about football ; but as I resigned my mastership of Adams Academy on August 1, 1893, I felt I had no right to pronounce as a school-master on the matter. I have therefore put your letter in the hands of my successor, Mr. William R. Tyler (Harvard, 1874).

I wish you would correspond specially with him. He was one of the Harvard team that began intercollegiate football by playing with McGill University, and declined the captaincy of the Harvard team in his senior year. He also played on the Adams Academy team in 1874, '75, '76, '77.

The revival of football started at *my table* in 1870. Football *was forbidden* by the faculty of Harvard College from 1858 (I think) to 1870, on account of the class fights. In 1870, I, being Latin tutor, organized a boarding-table at my house for students who had been my personal friends in all the four classes. Most of them were graduates of the Boston Latin School, where the old American football had been played for indefinite years. Of these Tyler was my special friend. Two or three of the young men came to me and asked if I thought that the faculty would allow football to be resumed, on an engagement by the students that it should be a real game and not a class fight. I referred the matter to the faculty, and had the petition granted. The game was organized on this condition, with a team

for all classes. It was practised on the old traditional lines, very much, I believe, like the Association game in England. After about two years a challenge came from McGill University, which played the Rugby game, and the Harvard team agreed to adopt that form for the sake of the match.

Tyler can tell you of the match ; but I wish whatever credit belongs to the man under whose auspices the game was revived.

Very truly yours,

WILLIAM EVERETT.

#### ADAMS ACADEMY.

Dr. Everett handed to me your letter of enquiries as to the effects of football in Adams Academy, and the blanks for answers from the school eleven.

I cannot answer your questions as to my own opinion with regard to the effect of the game on our boys, without going rather into detail as to my own connection and acquaintance with the game.

I played half-back on the Harvard team (fifteen then) in May, 1874, against the team of McGill University, Montreal. This was, I think, the first game of Rugby football ever played in the United States. In the autumn of that year I came here to teach, and for a number of years organized, trained, and played on the school football team. I thus have had very unusual opportunities for studying the game and its effects in a school.

In my opinion there can be no doubt that the effect of the game physically is admirable, both on the actual members of the classes and on the school generally, in arousing and maintaining an interest in an active out-of-doors sport which can best be played at a season when it is difficult to keep boys out of doors enough. Rough, and occasionally brutal, as the game must be, I

can recall but very few cases of serious injury to any of my boys in all the nineteen years the game has been played here, and no case, I think, of permanent injury.

I am convinced, too, that the moral effect of the game is on the whole good, though the football partisans are inclined to exaggerate it, or rather to ignore the objections to it. The game certainly promotes courage, self-restraint, a wholesome disregard of slight physical injuries, and a clear appreciation of the value of discipline and subordination. On the other hand, the evil moral effects seem to me obvious from the nature of the game. It tends to exalt mere physical strength and size unduly, and to brutalize a naturally brutal boy by offering practically unlimited opportunities for unnecessarily rough play, and high rewards for successful violence.

The development of the game recently in the direction of "tricks" and surprises, the tendency to examine every rule with a view to evade the spirit of it if the latter can be distorted,—in short, the "any thing to win" spirit—are also serious objections to the game as an honorable sport for boys. Preaching honor, courtesy, and gentleness to a school five days in the week is of little effect if the whole school pours out to applaud successful violence and trickery on the sixth day.

This brings me to the second part of your question, the effect of the game on school discipline. As far as the boys' physical condition is concerned, football is a distinct help to the school-master. A boy who has plenty of active exercise in the open air is an easier boy to teach, a more reasonable boy to govern, and a pleasanter boy to live with than one of the other kind. And football, as I've said above, occupies a place and fills a gap in the year's round of sports which nothing else can well fill. The ill effects of the game on school discipline come not from football as such, but from the



undue prominence that public interest has given it. Boys get to feel, their school-mates feel, and the friends of the school—if not their own parents—feel that, if they play their positions on the eleven successfully, they are doing enough for their own glory and the glory of the school.

The pressure on school authorities to keep an undesirable pupil, or, what is as bad, to admit one because "he can play football," is constant and at times severe. The result inevitably is that the leading football players of a school claim an immunity from the ordinary standards of scholarship and discipline which adds seriously to the difficulties of school government. It would be unfair to blame the game of football, however, for this evil—the game of chess might easily cause it—except for the fact that football is so much the most *spectacular* of sports that it attracts the public more than any other.

I am tempted to add a word on the wider, though not more important, question of football as a game for men in colleges. Fond as I am of the game, and much as I enjoy watching a well-contested intercollegiate match, I'm being forced to the conclusion that football is not a fit game for grown men to play. However modified, it in its essence involves violent physical contact of heavy masses of human flesh and bones. The injuries and risks of injuries which must result from such collisions are too high a price to pay for the physical or moral training which may possibly be obtained from the game. The notoriety which attends the successful college football player, the columns of imbecile or impudent personal gossip about him which fill the newspapers during the football season, the terrible physical and nervous strain under which he trains for the big matches, are all unmitigated evils which seem to me avoidable only by abolishing intercollegiate football altogether.

If, however, football is still to be played by the colleges, there is one radical reform which, to my mind at any rate, is adequate to remove a large part of the physical objections to the game. And this is to return to the original rules as to off-side play, and to enforce them to their whole intent. I mean by this much more than the abolishment of the so-called "interference." One must go farther back than that, to the original root of all the trouble—to the "snap-back." The moment the "snap-back" was invented, the systematic violation of the off-side rules began, and the whole progeny of evasions and distortions of the rules followed inevitably. As played now, the game is utterly illogical. If the rules mean anything, every man "lined up" after a "down" is off-side the moment the ball touches the quarter-back's hands, and all those attempts to define "holding in the line" are simply meaningless babble. Let the rule be made again what it was once—that every man off-side is out of the game and cannot touch the ball, or interfere with or obstruct another player in any way—and half the difficulties of umpiring, and most of the objections to the game on account of the "mass" plays and "slugging" will at once disappear.

I've written at this great length because of my deep interest in the subject and my anxiety to aid you in every way in your efforts to promote it.

I've often talked football over with your friend and my former pupil, Walter Irving Badger, and he will be able to tell you something of my interest in it.

Yours very truly,

WILLIAM R. TYLER.

ADELPHI ACADEMY.

It proved to be a rather difficult job to get statements of injuries from the boys on our football team. I have collected the enclosed. There ought to be as many

more, but two of the members of last fall's team are no longer in the Academy and three are at home sick with vaccination. Two others have failed to hand in the blanks to-day as they said they would, I suppose through forgetfulness.

I judge, however, that from the answers which I enclose you can make a fair inference concerning the amount and quality of injuries that our players have received. The fact is that I have very little personal knowledge of the matter, for I have been here only since last fall. I am informed, however, that it is almost unknown that an Adelphi football player should receive any very serious or permanent injury.

I believe that I may say that they have been so well trained that they have escaped from games with very much less personal damage than they have usually inflicted upon their opponents. Perhaps their comparative immunity is somewhat due to the fact that they are usually a light team and very nimble. The teams against which they play are usually superior in weight, and the last season, at any rate, showed a good many defeats for the Adelphi eleven, but if victory were determined by the number of players who were injured in the games, the Adelphi team would have a rather brilliant record.

It is right in this connection that I should put on record my opinion that our boys, being somewhat lighter than their customary rivals, have played a pretty hard game in order to make points, and I fear that the result upon their own mental state has not been entirely beneficial.

I have no doubt but they are deriving a great deal of physical advantage from their participation in the game, especially from their training, and I believe that they acquire habits of order and obedience which become valuable in school discipline. At the same time I do

see a strong tendency to excuse any course which will result in winning a game or making points, and that tendency, as you will easily observe, might lead to an objectionable mental development.

I am heartily in sympathy with the effort to develop our scholastic games wisely, and I hope to give our boys better advantages next year than they have ever had before, both in the shape of trainers and general facilities.

At the same time I am more and more convinced that only by close vigilance and care shall we be able to prevent the development of the unscrupulous spirit among our athletes, or be able to preserve them from the objectionable sporting influences that grow up about our games.

I believe that we ought to cultivate a public opinion among them which would visit quick condemnation upon any trickery or brutality in play.

If the newspapers have correctly reported the modifications in the football rules that you and your associates have recommended, it seems to me that you are moving in exactly the right direction and have agreed upon very judicious amendments.

Perhaps I should say a word upon one word in your note that I have so far rather overlooked.

The effect of football and games of the same sort upon the scholarship of the young men who engage in them seems to me to be somewhat as follows :

In the body of students at large I believe that the effect is good. The boy is made more wide awake and his better physical condition leads him to do better mental work. Most of the players upon our teams do very creditable work in scholarship. Concerning some individual pupils, however, a very different report would have to be made. There is the same evil here which we find in college: namely, the presence of a few young men who are interested in nothing but games, who study

just enough to stay in schools and enable them to participate in games, and whose influence upon the other boys is very much of the earth earthy.

My own impression is that the best physical training, viewed with reference to its influence on scholarship, discipline, and physical development, is the regular training in gymnastic work and in track athletics. That work can be kept closely under direction, can be made very regular and systematic, and can be largely shielded, here, from the demoralizing influences that attend games.

Yours very truly,

CHARLES H. LEVERMORE.

#### THE ALBANY ACADEMY.

This is a local academy—hence the conditions are much like those of the Berkeley School in New York City.

We have a capital play ground a mile and a half from the school—the result is but one season of practice daily and this too long. The boys fit themselves for bad rather than good work at their books. *All* poor students suffer greatly; good students plan their work so that the loss is minimized.

Local academies suffer more than boarding schools, because too much football has to be taken at one time daily on account of difficulty of getting the teams together and distance from the play ground.

The effect of football on health and capital:

It is the manliest sport for boys ever devised. Were I at the head of a boarding school I would not receive or keep a boy who would not play football when he was told (unless he had some local weakness), for I should know that he had some punky spots in him.

My Latin master was a member of the Rutgers College team and will add a few words.

Yours cordially,

P. P. WARREN.

## ALBANY HIGH SCHOOL.

The accompanying statements do not in my opinion afford very valuable data for reaching a conclusion. First, as to injuries : The boys who have received serious injuries are no longer on the "team" and so their testimony is excluded. I can say, however, that serious or permanent injuries have been very few.

Second as to scholarship, discipline, etc. Seven out of the twelve boys whose names are on these slips are among the very poorest students we have in school, but I do not think their scholarship is either better or worse for their being on the football team. We have had teams made up almost wholly of our best scholars, and never before one in which the scholarly element was so poorly represented. The five whose scholarship is creditable among this twelve, have, I think, been benefited, rather than injured, mentally, morally, and physically by their participation in athletics.

I am not a great admirer of the game of football, but candor compels me to state that the effect of the game in our school has been productive of more good than evil.

Very truly yours,

OSCAR D. ROBINSON, Principal.

## PHILLIPS ACADEMY.

Football was introduced into the Phillips Andover Academy in the fall of 1875, and has been practised with a good deal of interest ever since. Out of several hundred boys it is generally easy to secure a good team, one with which the college teams are willing to play. In reply to your enquiry as to the results to the players and to the school, I can speak with considerable confidence after observing nineteen vigorous campaigns. There have been a good many instances of physical accidents, interrupting for a longer or shorter time



school attendance, but no serious disability has followed in any cases as I now remember. "Training" has generally been a physical benefit, and it has set a standard of wholesome living as regards sleep, diet, and physical exercise, which has helped the entire student body. This advantage has been impaired sometimes by the reaction of going "out of training."

The intellectual work of the players has suffered by the hard demands of the games and the practice, by the intense interest in the success of the team and in the scores made by other teams, by endless discussion of prospects and possibilities; on the other hand it has been helped by the moral earnestness of the men, a sense of responsibility and school loyalty, and by the physical regimen. The intellectual work of the school at large is improved by a wholesome interest in a sport which rebukes softness, self-indulgence, and individualism, and emphasizes the bolder virtues. Football interest replaces a vast amount of inferior interest and talk.

It is vastly easier to teach and govern a school in which men, who are to be eminent college captains and players, are working for immediate and for coming successes, and who win their full share of victories here, and go up to college with a very considerable reputation as promising candidates for class and college teams.

It is easy to fix upon individual accidents, frequent interruption of studies, not infrequent poor preparation of lessons, incidental disorders and slips after victories, inordinate absorption in the critical contests, the large aggregate expense, and to overlook the healthy recreation, the unifying influence, the moral restraint and incentives, the generous rivalries, and the revised and corrected estimates of values which a team made up of good boys, under good discipline and handling, will secure to the whole school. School morals and school morale are the better for this difficult and somewhat



dangerous sport. The dangers ought to be made less, and the advantages made more obvious and universal.

CECIL F. P. BANCROFT.

#### BERKELEY SCHOOL.

My teachers agree with me and I am really surprised at the unanimity of feeling among our masters in regard to the game. Possibly my own enthusiasm has toppled them all over, but I hardly think so. Their opinions\* are certainly honestly given, and I have not appended comments until after consultation with those who, I had reason to believe, would be very conservative.

Wishing you all success in such a revision of the rules as will make this finest of all games a permanency among our sports for American boys, and with the expression of my highest esteem for the splendid stand you have always taken in athletics, I am

Yours sincerely,

JOHN S. WHITE.

#### BRIDGEPORT HIGH SCHOOL.

I am fully satisfied that football has been helpful to my boys, and of decided advantage to my school. Improvement along lines of school discipline was more manifest last fall than ever before. With some of our team scholarship has never amounted to much, and we did not realize any decided change. I think, however, that our boys feel more than ever that men of good mental ability must represent the school in this sport, in fact, that mind wins through muscle rather than muscle without mind.

I expect to see the day when our school will not accept athletic work from members of low standing in regular school work.

\* Comments as to the effect of the game upon each boy.

Trusting that you will succeed in helping to remove some features of roughness in the game, so that our fathers may not be afraid to have all the boys play, I remain, in the interest of all manly sports,

Most truly yours,

H. D. SIMONDS, Principal.

MECHANIC ARTS HIGH SCHOOL, BOSTON.

I have referred your letter, and blanks numbered from 73 to 84 inclusive, to Ray Greene Huling, headmaster of the Cambridge English High School, and my successor. I am at present in charge of the Boston Mechanic Arts High School, a new institution, without any athletic experience.

Personally, I am fond of athletic sports, believe in the competitive spirit, have faith in the general good that comes from them, find in them a safe exit for much superfluous energy that might otherwise be worse directed. That is, athletics have a negative moral value in the way suggested, to say nothing of their positive moral value in keeping high ideals of temperance, moderation, and such things before the boys.

I think the present feeling that football is too savage a game, in some of its aspects, is well-grounded, and hope a way may be found to save the game from its harsher features. But these are truisms.

Yours truly,

FRANK A. HILL.

ENGLISH HIGH SCHOOL.

My own views about the effect of football upon the boys and upon their school work are these :

Boys ought to have not only gymnastics but athletics, that they may get strength of body, quickness and precision of movement, and certain moral traits essential

to the highest manhood, as pluck, alertness, and disposition to co-operate with others for useful ends.

Being boys, they will carry their athletics to extremes, and will admit unwise accompaniments; they will also for the sake of athletics permit neglect of home and school duties.

Therefore I favor the giving to all boys of opportunities for athletics in the proper season, and of gymnastics during winter and inclement weather. But I would also favor the supervision of such sports and gymnasial practice by competent adults, when this is permissible by considerations of expense and residence. In any case I would have the athletics done under such regulations as older minds devise, to secure reasonable safety and gentlemanly conduct, and I would have some authority vested with power to enforce expulsion because of repeated violations of the regulations, and temporary suspension because of strain or other injury to health, and because of neglect of school duties.

I may add that I observe some positive evidence of loss in scholarship because of interest in athletics among the boys in school. This has been true in every school in which I have taught—in Fall River (1869-75), in Fitchburg (1875-86), in New Bedford (1886-93), and in Cambridge (1893-94); but I appreciate the fact that school is not the only preparation for life. I value the qualities of manliness that come from association of boys in innocent athletics so highly that I am willing to take less in book-knowledge, if I cannot get the manly qualities without some loss of this kind. But I as firmly believe that with due regulation and competent supervision a proper balance of study and physical exercise can be maintained, resulting in steady growth of mind and body alike.

There is one more consideration worth mentioning. Our boys by their athletics are sometimes led to asso-

ciate with men of a "sporting" type, to the injury of their morals. Bad habits of language, smoking, and drinking have been acquired thus within my personal observation; and betting has been alleged. This is hard to reach, even with supervision of athletics, but restraints can be imposed to keep the tendency in check; and the general tone of the school will have some restraining effect.

On the whole, you observe, I favor regulated and supervised athletics, though I recognize their positive annoyances and dangers.

Cordially,  
RAY GREENE HULING, Head-master.

#### ENGLISH HIGH SCHOOL.

It is difficult to answer your enquiries by circular about football by "good" or "bad" without qualification. As the game is now conducted, I am of the opinion that the result on the whole is unmistakably bad.

Our team was carefully trained this fall and I think the boys of the team were unquestionably benefited physically. But the rest of the school received no good in this way. It is systematic gymnastics or drill, not athletics in any form, that can help the entire school.

The game makes very little difference in point of general school discipline. It takes a little restlessness out of a few boys who engage in it and gives them a little practice in self-control on the field, which is all the advantages I am able to see.

The bad effect upon scholarship has always been noted. Our rank lists show it unmistakably.

The rivalry between schools is a bad element. It may do for college men to cultivate the college spirit, but it is a bad thing in elementary schools.

I am sorry that I have to make so unfavorable

a report, for I enjoyed base-ball as a college boy, and like to witness any game, now.

Yours sincerely,

C. F. WARNER.

#### CAMBRIDGE LATIN SCHOOL.

As to the effect of sports, etc., on the discipline of this school, except in a few cases, I think these have had very little effect. Now and then a boy stays from school, plays truant, because he loses interest in school on account of his greater interests outside.

Physically, more are injured than helped. I have many who have suffered for years from injury to their knees. Many boys simply ruin their course (intellectually) by giving their time to athletics.

I have seen *nothing more to the point* than the remarks of President Eliot on athletics in his last annual report. What he says applies to the high schools.

Truly yours,

W. F. BRADBURY, Head-master.

#### CHAUNCY HALL SCHOOL.

At present our boys have no organized eleven for football, and consequently there are no boys whose answers to your questions would be valuable.

So far as football has been played here, I should not have considered its effects as differing in any respect from the effects of other sports—base-ball, track athletics, tennis, etc. The tendency of match games of whatever kind is to lead the participants to overdo the business—to neglect their legitimate work for what should be only a recreation. But, after all, I think with us school work suffers more from party-going and theatre-going, late hours, and consequently insufficient sleep, than from all the out-door sports put together.

I am sorry that I cannot give the detailed answers to your questions that you would like.

Yours very truly,

M. GRANT DANIELL.

COLGATE ACADEMY.

Replying to your letter of the 1st of March, I take pleasure in stating briefly my own opinion about football. We have been very fortunate this year in our football, inasmuch as no accident has occurred. I believe that last year, before I came, one or two quite serious injuries were reported. I played football myself, and in part in intercollegiate contests, and in my personal experience as a player never saw any one seriously hurt on the field. I myself was never hurt at all except, of course, the bruises and occasionally a black eye that seem to be inseparable from the game. I am confident that in a game rightly controlled it can be made to be of great physical advantage, contributing to the good discipline of the school. There is something in the nature of boys that makes them particularly love a game that is hard, into which the element of endurance and, to a certain extent, suffering enters. Moreover, the game has been in many instances helpful in training men in self-control and subjugation of temper as no other means could do. I have, however, been impressed the last year or so with what seemed to be an increasing roughness of the game, and I have noted a strong popular disapproval of many of its features. It has seemed to me, therefore, that unless the rules of the game could be so remedied as to remove all opportunity for unnecessary brutality, that it could not continue to hold its place in the favor of schools and colleges. In one game that our boys played last year such a ferocious spirit was exhibited by their opponents that I could not consent under any circumstances to allow them to

play there again. Football can never be made a game for invalids, but I am sure that something can be done to check the tendency to ferocity and brutality. Unless something is done in this direction, I shall not feel that I can conscientiously give it any longer the hearty support that I hitherto have given it. I take pleasure in enclosing herewith statements from members of our team.

Yours truly,

C. H. THURBER, Principal.

#### CONNECTICUT LITERARY INSTITUTION.

I am much interested in the matter of your letter, but it will take a few days to communicate with our football men, some of whom are on vacation.

I wish also to write out my own views and secure those members of the faculty most in touch with athletics. This effort I most cheerfully undertake because I shall be glad to see sports protected from unreasonable advocates and opponents, and their rightful place generally conceded. With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

WALTER SCOTT.

#### THE CUTLER SCHOOL.

The popularity of the game here is shown by the fact that in a school of 180 boys we had five football teams last autumn.

Yours truly,

ARTHUR H. CUTLER.

#### ENGLISH AND CLASSICAL SCHOOL.

My boys are away now on their vacation and perhaps any reply may be too late.

I can say for them that they have received many bruises, sprains, and abrasions of the skin. One boy had a cut over the eye which required a few stitches,



and one was thrown hard to the ground and was dazed for a while, but each attended to his school duties the next day. No one has received any severe or permanent injury.

I am not aware that the sport has had any injurious effect on the scholarship or discipline of the school, and it certainly has improved the health and physical development of the players and awakened new interest in athletics among all the boys of the school.

The contests between school elevens seem to increase the *loyal sentiment* and thus react favorably in many ways upon the scholarship and discipline of the school.

Still I hope the dangers will be eliminated and brute force will give place to strategy and skill.

Yours truly,

CHAS. B. GOFF, Principal.

#### THE PHILLIPS EXETER ACADEMY.

Your letter has been carefully considered by our faculty. I enclose the blanks.

I may add that we believe in athletics when properly managed, and should not like to abolish sports; but we disapprove the sharp practices that sometimes grow out of inter-scholastic contests.

We shall be glad to know the general result of your enquiries.

Very truly yours,

J. A. TUFTS, Secretary of Faculty.

#### GERMANTOWN ACADEMY.

The Easter holidays have prevented me from replying to your favor of March 20.

Germantown Academy has had a football team for seventeen years and has generally been very active in

all school sports. We hold the championship in the Inter-Academic League of Philadelphia and vicinity, and I think there has scarcely been a season that we have not defeated the Freshmen teams of the university. I mention this to show you that we have had a very large experience in football, and during all that time have not had a single accident that has resulted in serious or permanent injury.

The best student makes the best football player, and I consider the general effect of the sport upon the boys good, both physically and mentally.

I return you nine of the blanks signed by members of my present team, two are still absent.

My general answer above covers questions 5 and 6 of every blank.

Truly yours,

WILLIAM KERSHAW.

#### GIRLS' HIGH AND LATIN SCHOOLS.

You will probably smile when I tell you that the two schools of which I have charge contain together about one thousand girls. I have read your questions with considerable amusement, and can only regret that my experience does not qualify me to assist you in your efforts to ascertain how football affects the secondary schools. In fact, I haven't a boy even in my family, all my children being girls. You could hardly have found in the United States a school-master more incompetent to enlighten you.

Yours,

JOHN TETLOW, Head-master.

#### GROTON SCHOOL.

I will not write to you at length my views upon football in its relation to school life, because I have already

told you my ideas in part, and I shall have an opportunity to express them more fully in person. It is my opinion that while football is not free from objectionable features even in schools where interest is taken in it by the masters, it has advantages which far outweigh these defects.

There is, no doubt, a tendency on the part of boys to lay too much stress upon the importance of the chief matches, to dream of them as they draw near, instead of devoting themselves to their books, and to unduly exaggerate the importance of victory. In some schools, as in some of the colleges, it seems to be thought necessary to make allowance for shortcomings of the members of the football team in the height of the season. But this is by no means the fault of the game.

When the game is fairly played (and without an honorable spirit all games are harmful) it cultivates some of the most important qualities for our times. It develops in players a spirit of courage, and a willingness to endure fatigue and pain, which are qualities most needed in these days of luxury and extravagance. It supplies boys with a healthy subject for conversation. People may think that it prevents the discussions of intellectual topics, but these are not likely to occupy the spare time of the average school-boy. Under favorable circumstances football, and athletics generally, run out a lot of poor stuff which enters into the thoughts and lives of young men who are more fond of society and the gentle games than of these more stirring sports. There are many other qualities which are brought out by football, but these three—endurance for the sake of the institution which one is representing, simplicity of life, and healthy conversation—are things which are not, as it seems to me, generally recognized by the world at large. To my mind, luxury, extravagance, and immorality are the greatest foes to the young men of this, or

of any other country, and I gladly hail a game like football which tends to drive these evils out.

I am,

Very truly yours,

ENDICOTT PEABODY.

HARRY HILLMAN ACADEMY.

I have the pleasure to forward the blanks sent me with answers where it was possible to obtain them. You will notice a note of my own at the bottom of one of the blanks.

We have no training table at this school, nor do we carry the playing of the game to excess.

I do not approve of school teams travelling about the country, but in our case it has been necessary to go away sometimes in order to secure worthy opponents. We have generally had a teacher play upon the team whose knowledge of the game was of advantage to the team and whose presence at games prevented any thing unbecoming from taking place.

I see quite clearly that games in secondary schools should receive careful supervision. A number of other matters concerning this manly game receive our attention, but I presume would be of no special service to you in this connection.

Very truly yours,

H. C. DAVIS.

HARTFORD PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL.

I enclose replies from our football eleven, and am sorry that the delay has occurred.

There can be no question as to the general good effect of the game upon our boys and upon the school.

Yours truly,

CHARLES HENRY DOUGLAS.

## THE HIGHLAND MILITARY ACADEMY.

Your kind enquiry is by no means an intrusion, but very welcome. While athletics have not flourished with us as in some civil schools, because of the prominence of the military element in our curriculum, we have found athletic sports among our cadets to be every way helpful and inspiring. Under a system less strict than ours I can understand how athleticism might be carried so far as to interfere with good scholarship, but such a state of things does not exist here. I will gladly hand your blanks to the captain of our football eleven.

Yours very sincerely,

JOSEPH ALDEN SHAW.

## THE HOTCHKISS SCHOOL.

I enclose to-day the forms sent me to be filled out. Your question as to the effect of football on the individual is very difficult to answer, especially as we have no school teams and no outside competitions. For the outside competitions are, I think, usually the source of most of the unfortunate excesses in school athletics.

As to the connection of athletics, *i. e.*, competitive contests, with physical development, I consider them occasions for exhibiting the valuable results of physical health and culture, by the tests which they afford. But I do not consider them as having any *direct* connection with physical culture itself.

Very truly yours,

EDWARD G. COY.

## DR. HOLBROOK'S MILITARY SCHOOL.

Our experience with football and, indeed, all athletics, has been that, under restrictions, they have been of great benefit to our boys physically; and we have

found that what benefits them physically renders them capable of more and better mental work.

The casualties among our pupils have been much less since they played football systematically, *i. e.*, with proper clothing and training, than when we made no such restrictions.

Of course we cannot speak for college students, but it seems to us that the game, for school-boys, would be much improved if the danger from what I understand to be "mass" plays could be lessened in some way.

Aside from that we feel that it is a benefit in every way to *our* boys.

Sincerely yours,

HENRY C. HOLBROOK.

HOPKINS GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

My general opinion of the effect upon the school is favorable, though last year we had three serious accidents in one game. I wish that the danger of physical injury could be lessened either by more open play or in some other fashion.

Of the beneficial moral effect I have had two striking illustrations in the school. There were two boys who on entering the school seemed likely to turn out milk-sops. They were timid, shy, and diffident to the last degree. They both began to play football and continued to do so as long as they were in the school.

The grandmother of one of them, who was his guardian, was very solicitous about the game and its roughness, but she had to acknowledge to me that her grandson was growing more manly and courageous under it.

Those boys became in time thoroughly self-reliant and plucky, and I am disposed to ascribe the change in large measure to the discipline of football.

Yours in haste,

GEORGE L. FOX.

## KING'S SCHOOL.

I have never known a boy to study less faithfully because of football, and I have sometimes known boys to study much better because of it ; finding they could succeed in football has seemed to start a desire to succeed in other kinds of work, for football, properly managed in school, has a decided element of work in it.

I want to say in this connection that I consider the recently introduced massed plays not only a great disadvantage but a positive danger to school-boy teams. Teams from different schools are much more apt to differ in weight than college teams, and in those massed plays a twenty-five pounds difference in average weight is damaging and may be disastrous. These plays have certainly introduced an additional element of danger, and parents know it well enough to show an increased unwillingness to allow their boys to play. Last season I was unwilling for the first time to try to overcome parents' unwillingness by reasoning with them. In this indirect way it seems to me that those plays will soon affect unfavorably the college teams.

Yours very truly,

HIRAM N. KING.

## JARVIS HALL MILITARY ACADEMY.

I know that the game did more for me mentally, morally, and physically, than anything else in my college life. I went to college timid and weak, and I graduated with a confidence in my own powers and physical strength which have been worth every thing to me. Physically one might have said that I would have been killed by the game, for I was 6 ft. 1 in. tall, and only weighed 137 pounds. The position I played every day for nearly two seasons, of full-back on the scrub team, required me to kick against the 'varsity with such a weak line in front of me that I usually was thrown as soon as I had kicked.



The only injury I received was in playing against the University of Pennsylvania. I was thrown out of bounds and struck on my shoulder on a ridge of earth which should not have been there.

The argument for roughness is an argument for ignorance. The real argument against football as played in our colleges I believe to be that the selection of a team and their careful training gives too few men a chance to play. A broken bone is a small thing compared with the coolness, the self-control, and the manly spirit which football more than any other sport gives to the player. If colleges exist only to teach Latin and Greek they might as well close, for nine-tenths of the graduates knew more of the dead languages when they entered than when they graduated; but if the colleges exist to make *men*, football is the most important part of the course. The only trouble is that under our present system so few can "elect" it.

Thanking you for giving me the privilege of writing upon the subject, I am,

Very truly yours,

F. T. SPALDING.

#### LAWRENCEVILLE SCHOOL.

Notwithstanding the somewhat favorable report given by our school physician, whose letter I enclose, and notwithstanding my own endorsement of the game of football, I am constrained to say that it works disastrously in a fitting-school of high grade. This year only one member of our team is to be graduated. Every other member of the team has either been dropped from his class, dropped from the school, or as is the case with the captain, seriously injured and compelled to leave the institution.

You know our Mr. George, Princeton's famous centre rush. He and I frequently talk over the game of foot-

ball played by boys in a fitting-school. Our conclusion is that if these boys play occasionally with college teams, as do Andover, Exeter, and Lawrenceville, they are unequal to the strain of the necessary training. Something should be done to diminish the demand upon growing boys. We have played football here for ten years, and play it well enough to score against the 'varsity team at Princeton. The physical injuries are a bagatelle, and I make no account of them, but the positive and indisputable injury to scholarship creates grave questioning in my mind.

Very truly yours,  
 JAMES C. MACKINZIE.

LAWRENCEVILLE.

I gladly make a report upon the football team of our school. Whether this sport *per se* has a bad effect upon scholarship I cannot say. Unfortunately the football players (team men) are rather poor scholars.

We have had 175 boys from twelve years old to nineteen who played more or less all the fall. Only eighteen of this number lost any time from their work by injuries received.

The injuries were as follows :

Fracture tibia and fibula, . . . . .	1
Sprains, . . . . .	8
Synovitis (knee), . . . . .	3
Fractured nose, . . . . .	1
Contusions, . . . . .	5

In all these accidents there was a perfect recovery.

One case not mentioned on the blanks was an injury to the head, and causing a severe contusion from which the boy has not fully recovered, and is out of school.

The injury was not very troublesome at the time but caused disturbance after his return to his home.

In general I believe in the game, and it is a good form of exercise.

Yours truly,  
 HUBERT S. JOHNSON.

## MILTON ACADEMY.

I find it hard to answer the questions regarding the effect of the game on boys so specifically as you wish, and must beg you to allow me to answer them generally on this sheet.

The injuries received here have been few and not serious, although this is a young school, and practice until this year has not been very vigorous (owing to the fact that we have not had enough good material to enable us to play other private schools with much chance of beating, and games have been rather few.

I am an ardent supporter of the game as played in such schools as this, where the games and practice are overseen by teachers and where often teachers play and act as referee or umpire. I am equally opposed to the game as played by many college teams, and object to the code of morality which prevails at present among the college players.

I do not believe this necessary, because when I insist upon visiting teams conforming to our code they have almost always been glad to do so, and some players have said to me afterward that they approved gentlemanly mode of play and were glad I insisted on it.

This moral side of the question I consider the most important with regard to the existence of the game. As to the physical effect I think it thoroughly good, and should look forward with dread to an autumn without our football practice and games.

The risk of injury, it seems to me, amounts to nothing, and it is a game that brings out the qualities of grit and endurance.

There have been at times four elevens practising at once on our grounds with a total number in the school of about sixty boys, between twelve and eighteen years. What would these forty-four boys be doing, if they were not at football?

I used to say that the autumn term was the football term and the spring term the base-ball term, and that the winter term was the time to study. I find, however, that quite as good work is done during the football season, and that the members of the eleven do as well then as at any time.

From the new standpoint of physical development I can hardly approve of the game.

For a person aiming at that I should think chest weights, boxing, fencing, running, horseback, etc., would be better than one violent game like this.

I think the game has rather a good effect on discipline, but we have very little discipline here, not having or keeping any boys not fairly willing to conform to rules.

I hope you will pardon the form of my reply. The subject is one that interests me as a teacher of boys, though I am not a football player, and have merely played with the boys partly to help out and partly to learn the game and not be a mere theorist.

If I can answer any further questions I shall be glad to.

Very truly yours,  
HARRISON O. APTHORP.

NEW BRITAIN HIGH SCHOOL.

I do not know, indeed, I do not think, that their interest in football has affected the course of the players materially. Some have been good scholars, others poor ones, and I presume would have been much the same anyhow.

I think the discipline of the game on the whole conduces to general self-control, and so the effect upon the school is good.

While the game contributes unquestionably to good physical development, I cannot but deprecate the

dangers that have, it seems to me, grown into it year by year. There ought to be more decided restrictions in regard to methods of playing, and they should be enforced. Some would then play who will not, or are not permitted to, play now.

Yours very truly,

JOHN H. PECK.

#### THE PRINCETON PREPARATORY SCHOOL.

I thoroughly believe that most of the objections made by the public to our noble sport are wrongly founded and conceived. My own experience tells me that football has been invaluable for its physical development and its teaching of restraint of temper, and of self-possession. The injury which I mention\* was received while playing with our school team last year and was the result of a kick in the mouth in a tackle. At the time I was laughing because one of the boys had succeeded in passing me and I made a dive for him. While in college I never had any trouble except with black eyes, sprained ankles, which inevitable things were very rare with me. The only two cases of sprained ankle befell me when not properly protected by ankle-braces. It is a noble game for strong, well-built men. It is of course too noble for physical weaklings.

Very truly,

C. T. WOOD.

#### PUBLIC LATIN SCHOOL.

I am an earnest advocate of school athletics, but I would make the practice of them a part of the school curriculum wherever it is practicable. It would not be practical in this school.

I do not see why this is not practicable in colleges,

\* Noted on one of the blanks as Mr. Wood played with the school team.

academies, and boarding schools ; I mean in institutions where pupils are in aggregations, under the control of the masters all the time. I do not think that out-door athletics have much effect on school discipline any way. I think military drill promotes and strengthens discipline. There is no doubt in my mind about the effect of athletics upon scholarship, especially while pupils are actually engaged in them. They distract the attention, lessen the time for study, and absorb to a large degree the thoughts and conversation of pupils. The winter season saves the utter prostration of scholarship in many instances. There can be no question, as it seems to me, that the effect is good in point of physical development when carried on under proper rules and limitations. There should be no uncontrolled freedom, or license, of athletics in any institution of learning.

I agree generally with President Eliot in his views as stated in the last report of Harvard University. I think, so far as our pupils have been able to engage in athletics in our school, the effect has not been bad—perhaps on the whole good.

Very respectfully yours,

MOSES MERRILL, Head-master.

#### SALEM HIGH SCHOOL.

I have never noticed any ill effects of any consequence resulting from properly controlled football in my school. It does not interfere with discipline; it need not interfere with study; and it adds to the spirit of the school.

Very truly yours,

A. L. GOODRICH, Principal.

#### ST. ALBANS SCHOOL.

Replying to your favor of March 1 in regard to the effect that the game of football has had upon the boys of this school both physically and in the matter of school discipline, I beg to say :

1st. I think that there are boys in the school who owe much to this game for the health, strength, and activity derived from it. When some of them get to be sixty and seventy years of age, they will be all the more hearty and vigorous old men for the football they have played in their youth.

2d. During the past two years, although we have had many match games and constant practice, we have had no player injured so as to prevent his attending regularly his school duties. This has been largely due to the intelligent coaching the boys have received, having had either a Yale or a Princeton player in charge of them both years.

3d. In the matter of school discipline, I find that football has a great deal to do with checking and destroying the inclination of boys to dime novels, cigarettes, intoxicants and the like, which, disguise it as we may, are always lurking about the growing boy to sap his health and mental and moral tone. Stagnant pools breed things, and I take it that football and its kindred healthy sports, such as rowing, base-ball, tennis, and the like, are like a healthy, fresh current turned in upon the boy's life. It flushes the ducts and avenues of his being, prevents deceit, morbidness; makes him manlier, freer, franker, and healthier.

4th. I find that boys respect and obey authority all the better when they find it has intelligent sympathy with their out-door sports and games.

5th. From my experience and observation I am in favor of football on general principles. The pinch-chested ecclesiastic of the Middle Ages has been our student-ideal long enough. It is about time we were returning to the symmetrical Greek who could write a choral ode one day and race in the Olympic games the next.

With cordial regards, very truly yours,

GEO. W. MILES, JR., Head-master.



## ST. ALBANS SCHOOL.

It is with great pleasure I give my testimony to aid football. I am very fond of the game and think most people do not understand its principles, and are too apt to oppose it.

I am heartily in accord with what you are trying to do and am willing to give a helping hand whenever I can.

I have been here at St. Albans this past year and trained the boys last fall.

We are all very enthusiastic over the game and feel that nothing but good has resulted to us from our playing. None of the boys was hurt, although in every game we averaged about twenty pounds less than the opposing team and won every game.

If I had my college course to go over again I would feel that I was hurting myself physically and not getting all the good I could if I did not play football.

Yours truly,

JOSEPH G. SYMMES, JR.

## ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL.

I am very sorry to have missed you, as I hoped to get many points which would further our sport at school and perhaps give you a few suggestions as to the difficulties of the game from an educational standpoint. If the return to the rough and ready Rugby is impossible, perhaps the chief difficulties or objections to this game would be met by prohibiting all off-side play, and furthering kicking and running at the same time by some such arrangement as this, which would also give the umpire a chance to see any intentional roughness: Allow only four men of each side on the line at a down, including the quarter-back, any of whom may run with the ball if he receives it from the quarter-back while on side, all others to be behind the nearest *ten-yard line* till the ball is in play. The point seems to me to be

to make a game where a good man, light or heavy, will succeed, and where the chances for intentional roughness and rule-breaking would be minimized, and the game equalized between those who have and those who have not the ball.

Yours,

J. P. CONOVER.

ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL.

I consider the sport valuable in every way for my school. Please do away with the "mass play," and there will be no difficulty.

FREDK. L. GAMAGE.

ST. MARK'S SCHOOL.

In reply to your enquiry in regard to the effect of the game of football upon the boys of St. Mark's school, I beg to say that I consider that in point of discipline and physical development it has been of great advantage to my boys.

I am not, however, satisfied with the lines along which the game has been developed during the past two or three years, and I think its efficiency is likely to be seriously impaired unless some radical changes are made in the rules, and vigorous measures are taken to confine the game to its proper place, which is to furnish healthful exercise and out-of-door recreation.

At present the game has attained a position of too great importance in school-boy life.

With my wishes for your success in regulating football, I am,

Very truly yours,

WM. E. PECK, Head-master.

THAYER ACADEMY.

The Thayer Academy has no football team and there were but four of the boys who played on a team last

autumn. Of these four, the chief and most active has just been dismissed from school for inattention to study and misdemeanor after a protracted probation, while of the other three it is only to be said that they are fair scholars and have never been subject to criticism for conduct. No accident has happened that I remember beyond the dislocation of a finger.

Yours truly,

J. B. SEWALL.

#### WESTMINSTER SCHOOL.

As to the effects of football upon my boys, I have only a favorable report to give. I regard the discipline of training and playing games, whether the boys win or lose, as an indispensable adjunct to the school curriculum. It is not necessary for me to repeat the catalogue of advantages which make football in a school superior to all other games. I may add from my own experience that I have found it even helpful to scholarship. The majority of our honor boys from week to week has consisted of the best football players, and when the season ends a falling off in scholarship is noticeable. All our boys play except those who are forbidden by their doctors to do so.

Sincerely yours,

W. L. CUSHING.

#### WILLIAM PENN CHARTER SCHOOL.

We have been playing football in this school from the season of 1887 to the present time. During this period we have held the championship about one-half the time. We have had no serious accident whatever, either in games or in practice. You will see by one of the enclosed papers that Marshall reports his collarbone and one rib broken. That, however, did not occur in either a school game or school practice. It was done



by playing with older and untrained men. We attribute our immunity from accident to the employment of the first teaching talent, in this department, procurable in the country. Robert H. Corwin, George W. Woodruff, and Henry Lane Williams have been in charge of this sport. We regard the influence of football in our school as good, and only good.

You will find after careful investigation that the evils all arise from belonging to leagues and associations, and holding the contest in grounds outside of the colleges and in big towns. In order to win in these affairs, which attract such a vast amount of attention, too great effort must be made and too great sacrifice. *The moment you push a boy or young man so far in this sport or any other that he becomes in any measure or in any sense a professional, you have gone too far ; and you must train your teams to this point if you win in national contests.*

I am,

Yours faithfully,

RICHARD M. JONES, M. A., Head-master.

#### WILLISTON SEMINARY.

Under such regulations as we are able to enforce in a preparatory school, we consider football conducive to a healthy, vigorous school-life.

We are so well satisfied that its advantages decidedly outweigh its disadvantages that we do not hesitate to give it our hearty encouragement and support.

The colleges must take the initiative in reducing the disadvantages to a minimum. In the nature of the case the secondary schools can merely imitate, and the tendency of the human nature we deal with is to exaggerate the objectionable features.

Yours very truly,

WILLIAM GALLAGHER, Principal.

## WORCESTER ACADEMY.

I have personally with great enthusiasm encouraged and built up, in all proper ways, an interest in football during a twelve years' administration of this school. I firmly believe in the great virtues of the sport, and yet at the same time I welcome the prospect of a reform of the game and a pruning of the features which have grown into it, which to my thinking are foreign both to the spirit and to the right tactics of football.

I wish to acknowledge my warm personal appreciation, as principal of a large school of boys, of the influence which is proceeding from you to bring the game to a sane condition. As a graduate of Harvard I gladly bear testimony to the great obligation to you under which all lovers of this manly sport rest. I am in full sympathy with the general criticisms upon it in President Eliot's last report to the Overseers of Harvard University. I doubt much, however, the expediency and wisdom of some of his specific recommendations. I am very frequently in receipt of letters from the parents of my boys, who very severely criticise the game. Only this morning a father of two of my boys prophesied success to the school that first dared to withstand football. While I believe that this is a very extreme position, I still feel that there is much occasion for the disrepute in which it rests in the minds of many thoughtful men, and shall cordially co-operate, as far as lies in my power, with all steps toward a proper reform of the game.

Regretting the delay in returning these blanks, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

D. W. ABERCROMBIE.

## AMHERST COLLEGE.

While football has been played at Amherst for some time the game has commanded the general interest of

the college only within the last three years. For this period the official records of the college show that nearly one-half of the men playing on the three elevens were in the first half of the class in scholarship. Nor would the instructors of the other half assign football, I think, as the principal or even as a noticeable cause of the lower rank of these students.

No just inference, however, can be drawn in regard to the effect of football at Amherst without an understanding of the attitude of the college toward athletics in general. Exercises in physical training are not only a part of the college curriculum, but are required of every student. By this requirement a certain capital in the way of physical training is provided, upon which the student can draw for special uses without extra demands upon his time. Another result is that the student comes unconsciously to put physical training in its proper place. It is simply a valued and honored means to a higher end. And so, our students who have the ability to win other honors are rarely satisfied with honors in athletics alone, however prominent may be their position. Neither does the athlete find that the faculty has given up other expectations of him, provided that he is capable of distinguishing himself in other directions.

In my own department, which is that of rhetoric and public speaking, I look in each class largely to the men excelling in athletics as the men who are to excel in writing and speaking. When I am sometimes asked with surprise why this is so, my answer is, Why not? what is more natural? The physical development and training not only give what is in part an essential basis of the orator, but the discipline of the base-ball, football, and general athletic field also begets an alertness of mind, an intensity of will, a force of character, and especially an ability to command all of one's resources,



physical, mental, and moral, for an instant purpose, which are always necessary to give to public speech the personal qualities that only can make it largely and highly effective. This is not simply theory. At our Junior Exhibition, in which the best ten writers and speakers of their class compete for prizes in the delivery of original orations, three captains of the base-ball team and three gymnasium captains have, within six years, been prominent competitors. Because of the expected appearance of this class of men at these competitions the time of the exhibition has recently been changed. Heretofore the exhibition has come on the evening of the day of a gymnasium contest and a league game of base-ball. But as this arrangement, while adding interest to the day, has placed the athletic men at such disadvantage in literary competitions, the exhibition has been put at another time than that of the gymnastic and base-ball contests.

W. H. Lewis, captain of the '92 football eleven, won, commencement week, the first prize at the Hardy Debate, and the equivalent of the Hyde prize in oratory. C. J. Sullivan of the same class, and captain of the base-ball team for three years, was a Kellog prize speaker, freshman year, and a Lester prize orator, junior year. A. E. Stearns, the present base-ball captain, has had the same honors, and has been appointed class orator commencement week. K. G. Colby, the pitcher, has already won honors as a writer and a speaker. Other members of the team, last year, had special distinction in the same lines, as will probably be the case this year.

Nor do our students who excel in football, base-ball, and general athletics fail to be represented in the honors which go with high scholarship. Of the members of the three elevens standing in the first half of the class six were leading scholars.

It seems, therefore, that there is no necessary antagon-



ism between physical and mental excellence as the results of athletic sports and contests. Neither is it inevitable that physical superiority, as shown in such sports and contests, is to create false standards, and to have a value in the minds of students other than its true worth.

HENRY A. FRINK, Professor Logic.

BELOIT COLLEGE.

Mr. Atkinson has referred to me your communication relative to the effect of football upon the students of the college. I have no hesitancy in saying that the effect has been valuable in every way. It is noticeable that in a majority of cases scholarship is improved by reason of the training received in football. Severe as the bodily exercise is at times, it seems to react favorably upon the mental powers.

While it is frequently true that our best athletes and football players are not our best scholars, yet in a majority of cases their scholarship improves while they are undergoing training. There are some notable instances in the college in which men have been aroused to better work in their studies, have lost their old-time indifference, simply because of their work upon the team.

Their experience there has given them new life and new interest. The faculty has recognized this fact and has removed the old requirement that students must stand seventy-five before they can take part in base-ball or football. They are now on the same plane as other students in the matter of standing, that is, any student can go on to the football squad provided his standing is above seventy. The results of football on discipline are noteworthy.

The rowdiness and lawlessness which so often in the past have characterized portions of the student body

have disappeared. Men find a more legitimate outlet for their animal spirits in the training of the football field. I like the bearing of the men ; they seem to me to be above the average in manliness. The qualities of self-reliance, coolness, resourcefulness are the especial property of football mén, and it is well to note that these qualities are not gained in the class-room. Football has been of inestimable value here in arousing college spirit and enthusiasm. Many colleges like Beloit, with 250 or 300 students, lack that *esprit de corps* which is so remarkable a feature in many Eastern institutions.

Football in Beloit the past year has aroused this spirit ; it has welded the students into one compact whole, and given them a unity of feeling and purpose such as is rarely seen here. College loyalty has especially been developed, and that alone has justified the existence of football here. In doing this sort of work football has rendered a great but unappreciated service. Cut out from the student's life the enthusiasms and experiences connected with the athletic field and you blot out the most exhilarating and stimulating portion of his college life, that portion which will longest live in his memory, and longest live to cheer him. Athletics, as represented in football and in other lines, give the students experiences which they cannot afford to be without and which will be of lasting benefit. I feel perfectly justified in saying that football has been a blessing to Beloit College and to the students in every way ; only those who wilfully shut their eyes to the fact can deny it.

Sincerely yours,

GEO. L. COLLIE.

BOWDOIN COLLEGE.

The genuine interest manifested by the members of the college faculty goes far to prove the hearty approval with which football is regarded in Bowdoin

College. Excesses and many objectionable features which have developed in many institutions are by no means so apparent with us.

Football, when played in an honest, manly way (as I believe it is here), is regarded as a healthful and beneficial sport. Yet its faults are by no means overlooked, and among the latter I should surely mention the tendency toward "mass" and "momentum" plays, which has of late been so widely and justly criticised.

I may add that it is a noteworthy fact (I think ours not an exceptional case) that, with us, the majority of football players are men of high standing in their classes. So far, at least, participation in this game seems in no wise to have interfered badly with the routine work of the college.

GEORGE T. FILES.

BROWN UNIVERSITY.

From twenty years' experience I am satisfied that the influence of intercollegiate athletic contests is beneficial to the great body of students. Severe restrictions on the part of the faculty are not so much needed as sympathetic guidance. I do not think football at present so desirable as general athletics or base-ball, but prefer it to boating for intercollegiate contests.

Yours respectfully,

NATHL. F. DAVIS.

THE COLLEGE OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

Casual observation for many years, during which the manner of playing football has had many changes, does not indicate to me that the game has had any effect, either good or bad, upon the scholarship or discipline of our students. Probably this is due to the circumstance that few of our students play the game, owing to the fact that practice grounds are not easily accessible, and

most of our students are not physically eligible for a team.

Very truly,

FITZGERALD TISDALL.

COLORADO COLLEGE.

I may say that in the short time I have been connected with Colorado College and Cutler Academy, athletics have been wholesome in their effect on the whole life of our students. The fact that we are too far away from competing teams, and that money is too scarce to make great expenditure possible, may account for the wholly good influence which I am satisfied our sports have produced.

I am much interested in the investigation you are making and wish I might give you something of greater value.

Very truly yours,

M. C. GILE.

P. S.—I have handed the statistical part of your enquiry to our captain.

SIBLEY COLLEGE, CORNELL UNIVERSITY.

The influence of athletic sports upon the student body in a great university is, in my opinion, intrinsically excellent. Like all other good things it is subject to abuses, and evil may at times result in so large a degree as to compel the question, Does it pay to have even so good a thing at such a cost in morals and manners? The answer seems obvious enough: It *always* pays to have a good thing; and the attendant evils, not the good thing itself, are what it does not pay to have. Two wrongs do not make a right, and the error of abolishing athletic sports, even the roughest and most warlike among them, being added to those in which originate the wrongs which attend their mismanagement, only

leaves us doubly unfortunate. The right course seems to me to amend the wrong, not to add a second and possibly greater one to the first.

The athletic sports of the students of Cornell University, as an example, are managed by an athletic council composed of delegates from students and faculty interested in and familiar with all technical and practical details and experienced in their management. The students taking part in all organized exercises and contests are under the strictest discipline, are regular in habits, steady in their practice, and on the whole the best regulated men in the University. The one possible objection to their taking part in organized and serious contests, and the extended and arduous preliminary training necessarily prescribed, is the tendency to infringe upon time which should be devoted to their regular university and other duties. But experience shows that a man may, if he choose, keep up his training without in the slightest degree neglecting his studies; and it even often happens that the best men in athletics are among the best in the classes. The fact is that the time given to practice is time which should be given to exercise by all, and no loss results if that practice is not made unreasonably prolonged and excessively exhausting, compelling the student to take time for practice or for rest which should be given to other work. This is never really necessary, and the authorities can usually regulate that matter. The best students going into athletics, here at least, seldom fall behind in consequence; the less scholarly men who go into these sports are those who would probably never excel in scholarship under any circumstances. There is unquestionably a stronger inclination among the latter to take up athletics than among the former; but the result is the removal of their operations from the billiard room to the athletic field, and the placing of their otherwise unregulated ways under

strict supervision by trainers and athletic council. Their "superfluous energies" are given the best possible direction under the best possible guidance and with best results to themselves and their neighbors.

The athletic exercises are indisputably admirable and desirable from every point of view; and this fundamental fact has, I think, never been challenged. All the Greeks rejoiced in the Olympian games, and every man of them was glad of an opportunity to witness them and proud of the distinction when permitted to take part. Athletic sports are vastly more desirable, and their universal cultivation is more important, to the modern "civilized" youth than to the Greek. Depreciated in constitution and weakened in every physical power by modern life and the tendency to use the mental rather than the bodily capacities, only general improvement in habits of life and of exercise can prevent the now apparently inevitable degradation of the physique of the race. This reform can be best effected by the colleges setting the example of regular, correct, and sensible methods of athletic exercise and illustrating the best kinds of gymnastic contests and practice. It is for them to improve and correct, not to abuse and abolish, the most essential element of better life for the nation, the basis of moral and intellectual as well as physical strength.

I would encourage all desirable forms of athletic exercise; all generous rivalry between individuals and between colleges in every game which brings out the qualities of courage, strength, agility, skill, and endurance. I would have "meets" at the colleges, contests between well-matched rival teams from different colleges, an annual international series of games—Olympian games, with all the improvement that the experience and wisdom of the intervening centuries can offer. I would have all these exercises and games under careful



and experienced and conscientious management, throwing out of formal contests all whose presence on the teams and crews may be considered undesirable on any score, relegating them to the gymnasium for systematic training with the rest of the undistinguished mass. I would have it understood that he who would represent the college abroad must be known to be in every way respectable, in habits of life, of study, and of morals and manners. I would have the men kept under constant supervision by the medical officer, and every man given his method and his limit under the advice of that officer. Men failing to creditably represent the college at home or abroad should be dropped out of the teams or crews, if not out of the college.

The advantages of the prosecution of athletic training in colleges, and of athletic "sports" as well, seem to me, properly directed, incalculable; the evils at present unquestionably often attendant upon them may be and should be remedied. I would not abolish the right with the wrong, but would cultivate to the utmost the splendid work of the gymnast and of the "athlete," pruning away as completely and as rapidly as possible every attendant evil. Once our people have acquired a fondness for "athletics," and have begun to regain that athletic body which only can hold safely "the soul of the sage," the American continent will have a future before it such as only a modernized Greece can aspire to attain. Something of this kind can be already seen, I am told, in the antipodean continent; but there is no reason why, with wise management in our colleges, the young men—and the young women as well—in the the United States of North America should not take the lead and finally excel the ancient Greeks themselves in physical and in mental power.

R. H. THURSTON.



## CORNELL UNIVERSITY.

There are undoubtedly individual cases in which football training and football enthusiasm have interfered temporarily with men's studies. Like any outside interest it may be allowed by students to intrude itself too far upon their time and thought, but it is not the rule that it does. Football practice does not make any unreasonable demands upon a man's time. He gives no more to it generally than any one should give to daily bodily exercise. If a college football team were allowed to make, during the fall term, long and frequent trips to play games, the result would be an almost certain interference with the proper demands of study. Absence from the college for five or six days in all during the term is not likely to involve a serious interference with work. It has been in general our experience that our football players maintain a good standard of scholarship. The training for the game, and indeed, so far as I can see, the general influence of the game as a whole, tends to the production of manly, earnest character, to the throttling of pettishness and peevishness, and to the establishment of habits of punctuality, of a sense for discipline and authority, of a readiness for co-operation, and, last and chiefest, of the capacity for timely and unhesitating action.

The influence of the game upon college discipline, that is, upon good order in academic life, has been unmistakably salutary.

BENJ. IDE WHEELER.

## CORNELL UNIVERSITY.

In response to your request, *via* the hands of our football captain, I write to tell you that I am very familiar with the physical condition of those of our students who play football, and that I know of no instance among Cornell students where a man's use-

fulness has been permanently impaired or his life shortened through the game. Nor do I believe the game lowers scholarship of the players.

Very truly,

E. HITCHCOCK, JR., M. D.

• FROM PROFESSOR AT DARTMOUTH.\*

It is difficult, if not impossible, to state the facts concerning football with numerical accuracy. For the injuries in the game range through all shades and degrees of mental and bodily damage, from torn trousers or a loss of confidence up to (we are told) insanity or a broken neck. Apparent disability is not always a sign of real damage.

Then, in attempting a serious reckoning there is a difficulty in separating fresh injuries and temporary aggravation of old ones.

It is, however, to be admitted that there are some risks and some injuries in the game.

In the last season the eleven had perhaps forty practice games with a second eleven, involving at least 22 men each time. This represents 880 men playing once.

The same team had vigorous contests with elevens representing Harvard, Yale, Trinity, Amherst, Williams, and others. This represents 220 men playing once.

The freshmen and sophomores played, and each of the classes played, at least one outside game. This represents 66 men playing once.

On Thanksgiving Day four student elevens played,

\*This letter seemed to put the case so strongly that, after making a copy of it, I took the original with me to the St. Botolph Club in Boston at the time of a smoke-talk upon football. There I must have mislaid it, so that I have lost the signature of the writer, for which I am extremely sorry.—WALTER CAMP.

the players, with a few exceptions, being entirely untrained. This represents 44 men playing once.

This gives a minimum estimate of 1210 men playing once, in all degrees of fitness and unfitness for the game.

I did not witness all these game and cannot speak with certainty, but with reasonable confidence, subject to correction. The injuries were bruises about the head and knees, sprained ankles, strained muscles and ligaments. I estimate the number of fresh disabling injuries at 20. Most of them were slight and temporary, and complete recovery was made before the close of the season in nearly every case. I know of but one injury that might be called permanent in the whole number given above. Its effects have continued to the present time, but are passing away.

In estimating the dangers of football it seems fair to compare it with other out-door sports involving strength, skill, and some excitement, like base-ball, swimming, hunting, coasting, riding, from none of which is the element of risk and danger eliminated, and not with sitting in a rocking-chair or playing checkers.

The question of risk, unless it should be shown to be excessive, ought not to weigh against the game; because risk is the element in which a boy lives through all his development from infancy to manhood. Through physical and moral risk, and in no other way, comes manly strength.

Nor will it help to call this needless risk, because in a certain sense all risks are needless. By *not* doing something, or by doing something else, any given risk might be avoided. If the boy doesn't take the risk of an athletic game, he takes a risk in doing something else with his time.

The fact is that, in this particular phase of the foot-

ball question, the outcry is ever done from lack of appreciation of the whole nature and history of a boy. Boys are bound to cause solicitude and anxiety from the time they put things in their mouth, tumble over the foot-board of their cribs, play with the fire, use a jack-knife, climb trees, and go swimming, till they reach man's estate, and it is a happy parent who has only bodily dangers to worry over. The other risks are infinitely worse.

#### DEPAUW UNIVERSITY.

There is in the faculty at DePauw, precisely as in most other institutions where football is played, a wide divergence of opinion as to the effects of football upon the scholarship and discipline of the students. In writing I express my own opinions and conclusions, but do not attempt to speak for any other instructor. I am persuaded that football improves both the scholarship and discipline of our students. We have restrictive rules governing intercollegiate sports by which students must gain and maintain a certain standard in scholarship before they can participate in intercollegiate athletics. Aside from the stimulating effect of these rules, there are always students on the team who find the exercise incident to play exactly what they need to put them in the most effective mental condition.

So far as discipline is concerned the effects of football have been even more marked. The worst, most brutal feature of college life has always been hazing. Football coming at a season when in former years hazing was most prevalent, and furnishing a natural and healthy exhaust pipe for surplus energy, has revolutionized the moral tone of our college during the fall term and made hazing practically a thing of the past.

I have no sympathy with the exaggerations with reference to football which filled the press last fall, and

know that the reported fatalities in football games on being sifted left just *one instance*. I have talked several times with one young man who was reported killed, and who it is commonly believed is dead—a victim to football. Yet I wish something might be done to remove features in the sport really objectionable and to preserve the sport for a place in college life that nothing else can fill.

Yours truly,

C. A. WALDO.

#### HAVERFORD COLLEGE.

1. There is some loss to the scholarship of a part of the team during the football season. I apprehend this is largely recovered by the end of the year on account partly of the good physical condition of the players at the end of the season.

2. There is probably some loss to the spirit of absolutely fair play involved in meeting college teams where such a spirit does not exist. The supposed necessity of straining, or in an undiscovered way breaking the rules in order to check similar unfairness on the other side, I think acts injuriously on the moral standard of some students.

These two objections are in my opinion much over-weighted by the abounding good health cultivated by the players, who in our college constitute a large proportion of the students; by the correct moral and hygienic habits induced by training; by the vigor which the game infuses in what might be otherwise an easy-going college; and by the harmonious relations developed by a common interest between faculty and students. This last factor especially has had an important effect in raising the standard both of scholarship and discipline.

Could the game be raised to the high standard of

play which characterizes our other college-game—cricket—I could endorse it almost unreservedly. It unfortunately shields offenders against the rules, and *all* colleges do not yet have their public sentiment raised to the point which demands above all things fairness, even at the price of defeat. I think this standard is rising, and hope for the best.

ISAAC SHARPLESS.

IOWA COLLEGE.

For another purpose I about three months ago tabulated the grades of all athletes, and all men in the college during three years, 1890-1893. The number of athletes includes football men, track athletes, and baseball players—regular members of teams and such substitutes as spent about the same amount of time in training. Since here the three branches require approximately the same amount of time, the figures may be taken to represent in a general way the relation of the standing of the football men and non-athletic men. Standing of athletes in per cent., 79.3. Standing of all male non-athletic students, 80.5 per cent.

My impression is that these figures may be taken as fairly reliable, *i. e.*, in general the standing of athletes is slightly lower.

It is customary for our football and base-ball teams to make trips outside the State once a year, at the expense of four or five school-days.

I should be pleased to receive any printed reports of the committee having in charge the revision of the football rules or other changes for the better regulation of athletic sports. I am,

Very respectfully yours,

W. S. HENDRIXSON,

Chairman Committee on Athletics.

*Report of the Director of the Men's Gymnasium and  
Professor of Physiology*

OBERLIN COLLEGE.

Interest in athletics has been increasing, with as yet few signs of those excesses and irregularities which have caused uneasiness among educators in the East. The class and 'varsity football games in the fall furnished to sixty college men from one to two hours of vigorous open-air exercise each day and stimulated many others to seek improved physical condition. The accidents, and noticeably on the 'varsity team, were trivial in nature, and were the cause of only one case of absence from classes. Of the sixteen men who played on the 'varsity football team during a part or all of the season six reached a standing of over 90 per cent. in their studies for the same term, and ten exceeded 80 per cent., while of sixteen men on the senior class team only two fell below a grade of 80 ; and eight stood above 90 ; so that the standard of scholarship has not apparently suffered.

Respectfully,

FRED E. LEONARD, M. D.

OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY.

As a member of the faculty, I can state that I consider football a manly, elevating, and scientific game ; although I would prefer to see the rules changed in order to make it less rough and dangerous. A modification of the rules that would tend to substitute more skill and agility for the now preponderating element of brute strength would meet with my approval. I am bound to say that I am afraid that I do not represent the faculty, in toto, at this institution, in this regard, as I think they are rather opposed to athletics in general, or rather are not yet believers in the practical benefits of systematic athletics.



If I can assist you further in your work, please correspond with me.

I remain, yours very truly,

C. D. RHODES, U. S. Army,  
Professor Military Science and Tactics.

#### PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGE.

I have not carefully compiled data on this subject, but from my general observation here during the past five years I can confidently assert that the sport has not interfered with the scholarship of the participants. I wish I could say that it has noticeably *aided* scholarship, and that those students distinguished for football proficiency are also noted for their close application to their studies. Although I cannot say that, yet I am pleased to note that our football men are truly representative of the "rank and file" of our students in scholarship and deportment. The game is not here regarded as deteriorating either to mind or morals, but rather as disciplinary to both.

In regard to the second part of your question, I am pleased to almost boast of the fact that general athletics, and football in particular, has a very beneficial effect on the discipline of the institution. The occurrence of college pranks and rowdyisms have very materially lessened since the spirit of athletics has become more prevalent among us. The occasional exceptions to this gratifying growth in grace are no doubt due to the stubborn existence of "original sin," which neither football nor any other pre-millennial influence will ever eradicate.

I am very much interested in this sport, and I sincerely hope that your committee will not only aim to make it still more scientific and interesting from a strategic standpoint, but that you will also make it somewhat less dangerous to life and limb. I trust this can be done without robbing the game of its intrinsic

features. As a physician I am positive that more bodily and mental benefits could be derived if the game were less severe; and as a theorist in physical sports, I am timidly hoping that it may be possible to make the game safer and yet not emasculate it.

Allow me to thank you for the healthy influence which "Walter Camp of Yale" is exerting on football discussions and regulations. The American colleges must depend on him and other level-headed university men to frame the rules and set the bounds for this great sport.

Yours very sincerely,

G. D. STAHLEY.

PRINCETON, N. J.

In my opinion the value of football, as conducted during the last fifteen or twenty years, has been very great, indeed. It is a manly, healthful sport, and has fewer accidents incidental to its pursuit than most other vigorous autumn and winter games. It interests large numbers of young men who would otherwise waste the time given to its pursuit. It sets among the students in general a fashion of living vastly more wholesomely than that which prevailed in college life before its introduction. It unifies the divergent interest of a large institution so as to create a strong university feeling.

The evils which have arisen out of a too intense public interest in college sport are manifest. In my opinion the turn has been made; the interest of the general public appears to be assuming normal proportions, the rules of the game have been wisely revised, and we may hope to secure college audiences for college games. If we succeed in this, the evils which actually spring from too great enthusiasm among students will be reduced to a minimum, while those inherent in modern life will not be attributed to football.

The compilation from official records of the sub-joined table has taken more time than would appear from its size. The records are authentic.

	Football	Base-ball
First Honor Men (First in Class), . . . . .	1	2
High " " above 95 per cent., . . . . .	23	13
Second " " " 90 " . . . . .	31	17
Good, " 75 " . . . . .	29	30
Low, " 50 " . . . . .	37	34
Failed, . . . . .	8	3
	129	99
Totals, . . . . .	129	99

These include only the men who have played in first-class games since 1874.

I wish we had a record of the so-called "scrubs," *i. e.*, the players organized to give the university teams practice—the numbers would be about four hundred and the proportion of scholarship very high. It is simply untrue that any man is allowed to go on with his class merely because he is a fine athlete. The pressure brought on good athletes to study is twofold, that of his companions who do not wish to lose his services and that of our overjealous faculty which "turn down" many a man who is a promising athlete when otherwise he would be permitted to make up his deficiencies in obscurity.

Ever faithfully yours,

WM. M. SLOANE.

RUTGERS COLLEGE.

The football exercise of our college has hardly been pursued during the past two years in a regular enough way to make any judgment as to its effect of very much account. The students who have engaged in it have been of average scholarship, and no *ill* results, as far as I can judge, have come from the game. Nor do I think

the game has had any appreciable effect upon college discipline. It has simply afforded those who were inclined to it a means of recreation, and given them the opportunity of measuring a very moderate degree of skill, derived from irregular practice, with that of the teams of a few of the smaller colleges. Perhaps the stimulus of a new gymnasium may change this in the future.

With regards I am,

Yours truly,

WM. R. DURYEE.

#### LELAND STANFORD JUNIOR UNIVERSITY.

The actual football playing does not injure or lower the scholarship, but improves it by keeping the men in better organic condition for any kind of work or study. As a matter of fact some of our football men are among the best, others among the poorest students we have. If football lowers scholarship it is due to *time lost* in thinking and talking about the game and general loafing, and some little from injuries. The effect, as of other athletics, is good upon college discipline. About thirty-five men each year have played more or less during the season. I regret that so many students stand idly by, day after day, looking on at practice as well as games. They are better so than cooped up in the house, but they, as idle spectators, are not making the best use of their time. College athletics engage too few men. This is not the fault of any one game, but we must have more games. College students must not take their out-door exercise by proxy.

Financially our football seasons have been unsuccessful, as we are in debt again this year. Nearly all receipts have come from games, and the expenses have been greater than receipts.

Personally, I believe in the game, although some

features must be eliminated. Any condition which intrinsically makes the play dangerous for a well-trained player, such as momentum plays, must be cut out. Accidents will always be possible in the game. It is the best game for a strong, *mature*, well-trained young man.

I await the revision of the rules for next fall with great interest. Please call my attention to developments.

Yours very truly,

T. D. WOOD.

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE.

College life has two aspects—its work and its recreation. The primary purpose of the first is the cultivating of the mind, that of the second the development of the body. Hard study gives zest to play, and play tones up the nerves for their work. All approve of enthusiasm in study, but some disapprove of it in recreation. The colt must not be coltish, but must conduct himself like the staid and tired work-horse. But the enthusiasms of recreation, when kept within reasonable limits, are as useful in their way as those of work. By and by all the energy, pluck, and determination developed on the athletic field will be focussed upon the affairs of life. He is a fool from the beginning who would turn his recreations into his business. It is right and proper, and hence advisable, that every child or youth should have the free opportunity to exercise the zest of life in every way in which this gift of Heaven may properly manifest itself, whether in the study room or the workshop, or on the play ground or the athletic field. A bright mind and a stupid body are not co-ordinates. During his student days the youth must look to his physical enthusiasms to develop his body; in his business career he must depend upon the enthusiasms of

his recreation to cultivate his mind, to keep himself in active touch with the sympathies and tendencies of his time.

Since the facts hold, it is not surprising that at Swarthmore football, the prince of athletic sports, should be one of the most useful means of developing and sustaining the enthusiasms properly belonging to all forms of physical recreation. That the rules of the game need to be changed, so that the danger of sprains and broken bones may be largely eliminated, is an unquestionable fact. Except in rare cases, where men desire to make football their occupation, I do not think that the game unfavorably affects scholarship at Swarthmore. I know that its effects upon the college discipline are only good, and that it is the most potent factor in developing all legitimate forms of what I have called the enthusiasms of recreation.

CHARLES DE GARMO.

TRINITY COLLEGE.

1. Effect of the sport upon scholarship :

I have kept watch of our class records for years, and can find no evidence of connection between class-standing and athletic distinction on which any conclusions can be based, beyond generalities. The football man is apt to be in the middle third of his class. More of them are in the first third than in the last third. We find their names among our prize-winners and honor men. Once, recently, the valedictorian was a noted player, who could probably have played upon any team in the country. Yet it is unusual for the first three or four scholars in any class to play in our first eleven—just as it is unusual for the last three or four. I am quite sure that the captain and a few of his veteran advisers are preoccupied, during the football season, to an extent which interferes with their studies ; but it is

a revelation to see how they pick up and make good their deficiencies after the final game. I fear that this mental preoccupation increases as football improves and its scientific possibilities are developed. To repeat—the average standing of the football players is about the average standing of the college, the exceptionally good and the exceptionally poor scholars being, as a rule, those who do not play.

2. Its effect upon college discipline :

I think this to be thoroughly good. Reasons have been pointed out by many writers, notably by yourself. The football man is full of “steam” and the game is his safety-valve. I was much impressed, a while ago, by an incident which came under my observation. I was sitting, in the evening, in the room of the captain of our eleven talking with him—probably about football. It seems that some sort of disturbance was in progress in a distant part of the college grounds.

Suddenly the door was flung violently open and a student appeared breathless. He blurted out (not seeing me) : “There’s a row down in —, and —, and —, and — (football men) are in it.” In a second I was alone in the room and in five minutes—as I took pains to ascertain later—the three guilty parties were conducted to their rooms. The “row” subsided almost immediately. To be sure the captain at this time was a youth of extraordinary force of character : but the incident teaches something worth knowing.

3. Total number of men engaged, etc. :

I have just been carefully through our catalogue list, assisted by the captain of last season’s team, and find that what with the various class elevens and “scrub” teams fully one-third of our students played two or three times a week last autumn. A much larger number were in the habit of kicking the ball about occasionally and of “fooling” with it in a decorous and salutary manner.



Perhaps I should explain that hitherto I have designated as "football men" only those who can fairly be regarded as members of the college team or as substitutes on it. My remarks as to scholarship, etc., of course apply only to these regular players.

#### 4. Finances :

We have the gate receipts, of course, but subscriptions by students and friends are always required.

Our association is usually "hard-up" and a rainy day when a match is scheduled is a financial calamity.

Sometimes there is a small surplus at the end of the season, but such incidents are rare, and there is never the slightest difficulty in reducing the surplus promptly and thoroughly.

I think, personally (you did not ask this), that our team, with the teams of other small colleges, travels too much, plays too many games, spends too much money.

And, finally, may I take this opportunity to protest against any radical change in the playing rules? Give us *good referees and umpires*—men who will fearlessly and impartially enforce the rules, provide against piling upon a player after the ball is "down," and let us alone. Every serious accident which I have ever witnessed, and I have seen many, has occurred in an "open" phase of the game; that is, when the man with the ball has been able to get under full headway at speed.

The faults with the game, its alleged brutalities, can be corrected by good umpires and referees.

Yours very truly,

F. S. LUTHER.

UNION COLLEGE.

I believe that the playing of football is, in general, detrimental to the scholarship of the men on the team. The physical exertion is so severe that sustained mental effort is made impossible.

The effect upon college discipline is, I think, good. Much animal activity, that would otherwise manifest itself in disorderly conduct, finds a place for its energies on the football field. The team and substitutes are kept under rigid discipline, and their abstinence from all manner of dissipation is a good example to the college.

This is, of course, beneficial to the general scholarship of the college.

B. H. RIPTON.

#### UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA.

I have not noticed in my own classes any particular effect upon the scholarship of the men actually engaged in football. In a few cases, before a great game, men have asked and received indulgence in regard to their lessons for a few days, but have afterward made up what was lost.

I think the effect of the game on college discipline is excellent. There has been much less of lawless behavior among the students since football became a real college interest.

I cannot form an estimate of the number in college who actually play football. Last fall there were four class elevens, but of course many more played. Neither can I guess how many are taken out doors by interest in the game, although large crowds watch the practice.

The rather large yearly expenses (\$4000-\$6000) are mainly met by gate money, though last fall there was a deficit of about seven hundred dollars, owing to rain on the day of the great game with Stanford. This amount is met by subscription.

Yours ever,

THOS. R. BACON.

#### THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO.

The University of Chicago has been in existence during only two football seasons, so our statistics can-

not be of great value to you. We have not had a very large number trying for our teams. In fact, scarcely two elevens have been upon the field in practice on the same day. Our training likewise has not been nearly so rigid as teams in the East are accustomed to, and hardly more than an hour a day has been devoted to practice. I cannot speak of any special effect which the training has had on college discipline, since we have had no trouble in controlling the students as yet. There is not much else to be said in regard to the financial side of our football team. Our expenses last year, which were almost entirely in guarantees and travelling expenses, amounted to nearly \$1400. Receipts about \$2000. Football has done a great deal toward arousing college spirit where little or none existed, so we feel it has been of special value in our university life. In fact our athletics have done more to create a college spirit than all the rest of the student organizations. I am glad that you have undertaken this work, and I hope that you will get some valuable statistics which will serve for the good of the game.

Sincerely,

A. A. STAGG.

#### STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA.

We have a rule which excludes any collegiate student from membership in a university team if his standing falls below 75 per cent. (65 per cent. is the passing mark). Football has been played regularly here only some four or five years. During this time the leading players have been leading students, both in the classroom and in the college forum. The average scholarship of our teams has been above, rather than below, the average scholarship of the university. This statement is based upon a general acquaintance with the teams; it is not the result of an exact investigation. The game

has the cordial support of our faculty, but within the last year a strong desire for a change in the rules, to lessen the risk to the player, has developed. While none of our players have been permanently injured, they have been laid up for short intervals with what seems to us unnecessary frequency; and there is some fear that some of the so-called temporary injuries may leave their mark. In the professional schools no rule fixing a minimum average of scholarship as a condition of membership is applied, and general statements are more difficult to make. The law school has furnished so far the largest proportion of players from the professional schools. I am, sir,

Very sincerely yours,

ISAAC LOOS.

UNIVERSITY OF NASHVILLE.

We allowed our football team a large measure of liberty last year, and see no reason for abridging it this. No students were seriously hurt. No bad effects on scholarship. College spirit greatly quickened. We are not allowing football because thereby the institution will be advertised, but because we see in it good to the students, from a physical standpoint. Football is a comparatively new thing with us, and our team is not so strong as it will be made by training. We have good material and hope for better things next fall.

Yours truly,

JOHN L. LAMPSON,

President Athletic Association.

UNIVERSITY OF NASHVILLE.

My position enabled me to notice the effects of the game on the students who took part in it here last season; these effects were undoubtedly good, both mentally and physically.

The good standing of the football men in their classes is due to the regularity of habits, and health gained by them in training.

Yours truly,

JNO. D. MACRAE,

Captain of Field Sports.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

Your list of questions and letter received to-day. In giving my opinion of the game, I will omit all the often repeated and perfectly true arguments about its cultivation of energy, continuity, forcefulness, self-control, strength, fortitude, and health. In those directions the game stands unexcelled, in my judgment.

On the other hand, football is a game in which there is actual danger of injury—physical injury.

The minor injuries can never be entirely eliminated from this or any game in which there is personal contact.

Changing the rules of the game will not, I am convinced, materially lessen the injuries.

Increase of skill will do so, however, and this seems the more likely, because most players are hurt when not playing their best.

Changes in the rules, then, should be made with jealous care and rather for the purpose of making the game more interesting to spectators than with a view to preventing injury to the players.

The most important change, in my opinion, would be to discourage, as far as possible, this recently born but abnormally developed habit of playing baby on the field. There should be less delay of the game, less sponging during a game, less fuss about injuries already received and, consequently, inevitable. If the hurt is great the player should leave the field; if small he should smile and play harder.

There should be cultivated that determination and

Spartan-like fortitude, which prevailed in the days before water-buckets and sponges and regiments of doctors.

Yours sincerely,

G. W. WOODRUFF.

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE.

We never had any team of any consequence until this year, and hence conclusions formed now may be rather hasty. As far as I have been able to observe I have not thought that the playing of football caused any deterioration in the men except when they went on a trip of more than a few days. In that case they returned unfit for work and hardly ever made up what they lost. There were no bad results as far as discipline is concerned, and I think the allowing them to play rendered them more tractable. Most of the players have been men of excellent standing in their classes and they have suffered little. The others would not have amounted to much under the best circumstances, and hence we cannot say that playing was detrimental to them. As a faculty we rather encourage the game, but, as I said above, we object mainly to trips away from the university.

Very truly yours,

COOPER D. SCHMITT.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN.

As "athletic director" of this university it has been my privilege to look into Western football critically, and I have taken advantage of that privilege. Up to this year the team here never had an Eastern coach, but played after their own fashion. Last year there were several accidents, none however serious. The first thing I attempted to teach the men was how to protect themselves and how to fall with some method even in reck-

lessness. Suffice it to say that the team which played the first game of the season played every game, substitutes only being used as a matter of practice. This record, I believe, is the same in the other colleges of this league, namely, Minnesota, Michigan, and Northwestern, all the teams of which, as you probably know, were coached by Yale men.

One serious accident occurred out here last fall which resulted in the death of a player on Delavan's eleven, composed of deaf mutes.

As for myself, I have played football for years, during which time I gained fifty pounds in weight, increased three inches in height, and five inches in girth of chest, with other developments proportionately. I entered college undersized, undeveloped, and in very poor health from all study and no play, from a section of the country where at that time football was unknown. My development was gradual, and the unusual vigor and physical condition which I enjoy to-day I attribute solely to football, as I never took a systematic training in any other sport, though having worked considerably in a gymnasium and on the track. As a matter of accidents, my only misfortune occurred in a practice game at Princeton in which the cartilages of my nose were displaced, but which disabled me no longer than twenty minutes.

Very truly yours,

PARKE DAVIS.

#### VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY.

I may say at the beginning that I am a strong advocate of athletics for the college student, from both physical and moral standpoints; and have been for the last fifteen years. I have had many a struggle here to maintain my position in these matters, and often I have found myself standing almost alone. Now, however,



our faculty are almost wholly converted, and athletics have such a foothold that dislodgment is an impossibility. In the last eight years our development in all lines of athletics has been marvellous, and during that time the moral tone of the student body has been greatly elevated. This is remarked and admitted by every-body; scholarship has not suffered in the least. In fact the average class standing of the men on our teams is above that of the university. I believe the tendency in the East for an excessive amount of training to be required is where the greatest danger lies. This undoubtedly necessitates a neglect of college duties which will bring athletics into disrepute. We encourage our men to take from two to three hours of training each day, and this I believe to be enough for all purposes, and does not interfere with college work.

As to football I will say briefly that I consider it the greatest of all games to develop the excellent qualities of manhood. I believe that the dangers to life and limb are very much exaggerated. I believe it can be improved by judicious modification of the rules; just how, I cannot say. I hope the committee who have the revision of the rules in hand will hit upon some happy improvements, which, however, will not encumber the game with too many umpires, referees, and other officials. I think, however, two umpires very desirable. I am glad to see that you are getting up some statistics, which I am sure will be very valuable.

Wishing you success in your undertaking, I am,

Yours very respectfully,

WM. L. DUDLEY.

#### STATE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON.

The athletic association, under whose auspices our games are played, is composed, for the most part, of our very best students, while nearly all our team main-

tain high standing in their classes. Those taking part are sober and industrious. During the last three seasons no dissipation, as far as I know, has attended the game. I must say, then, that with us the influence of football has been highly beneficial. Interest in outdoor sports has been awakened, and as a result our young men are in a healthy condition, physically and mentally.

Respectfully,

T. M. GATCH.

WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY.

Of course my colleagues might not agree with all that I have to say on the points you mention, but as I am perhaps as much interested in the game as any of them, I probably am not more severe in my judgments than most of them would be.

1. The question concerning the influence of football on scholarship is of course a difficult one to answer ; at least, to answer as briefly as a letter requires. I do not remember that we have recently had on our team, or among prominent candidates for it, any men of a decidedly scholarly tendency. We used to have such men some years ago, but the pace was not so fast then, either in football or in scholarship. On the other hand, our undergraduate officers of management are usually men of high rank, and their testimony is very decided to the effect that during the football season they can do no study worth speaking of. And as the pace in scholarship, with our tendencies to the multiplication of elective studies and the encouragement of specialization, is very fast, even for such men, through the entire year, they of course are really unable to make up a couple of months' lost time. It may not affect their rank decidedly, but it decidedly affects their actual achievement. Then among the players there is the great class of medi-

ocre men. Possibly some of them do as well even while playing football as they would do anyhow. But if so, it is only because they might waste their time in some other way, if they weren't putting it into football. Perhaps we might say that some, at least, of these men are not especially injured by their playing. But others, I *think* I can see, are. Then there is the class of fellows "on the lower edge." I believe almost all of these would pass up, or pass up more easily, if they didn't have to put so much of their time for two or three months, and surely almost all of their interest and nervous energy, into football. In general, then, I think football, as the pace is now set, is detrimental to scholarship here, though, fortunately for scholarship, the best material for football and the best material for scholarship have not often been the same here. And I do not see how it is possible that when we demand so *entirely* the interest of a man for football till Thanksgiving, it should not interfere seriously with his scholarship. The observed facts only confirm the conclusion naturally made from probability.

2. The effect of increased interest in football has been decidedly good so far as general college discipline is concerned. The animal spirits of the fellows find a vent here, in playing or interesting themselves in the playing, and do not expend themselves so much in practical jokes and petty hazing and class rows.

3. We find it extremely difficult here to get out a first and a second eleven, and generally the entire second eleven isn't worth speaking of. Furthermore, we have difficulty in getting out any good number of fellows at the hours of practice to help on the interest as spectators, unless we have been winning some decided victories (alas! not lately), or seem to be on the eve of a probable victory over some strong opponent. Our great difficulty here is lack of sustained enthusiasm

among the undergraduates. This, I think, is not due *solely* to the fact that, as the pace in football has been quicker, we have sunk in position relatively to many other colleges. It is also due clearly—though I cannot and need not, for the purpose of your enquiry, stop to specify how—to the great advance here in ideals of scholarship during the last few years. I think it is as easy as before for a man to select a general course and pass on respectably to his degree; but the prevailing tone has been so raised recently that the men with any scholarly instincts feel forced to expend far more nervous energy upon their special lines of work than they did a decade ago. As a result, they *haven't* it to devote to football, unless under a special and temporary stimulus (*e. g.*, a marked victory). Our scholarship goes up, and our athletics (this being a small college) go down, of necessity.

4. We can't "make football pay" here. There is a burdensome subscription from undergraduates and graduates necessary every year, in addition to what we can raise from games, and to some help from the Glee Club, etc. (For two reasons, we are in a small town and we have no entirely enclosed field, and hence find it difficult to enforce payment of admission fees.) I think that if you desire it for the purposes of your enquiry, Mr. E. L. Thorndike, '95, formerly treasurer and now president of our association, will be quite willing to send you, at your application, a summary of our receipts and expenditures for the past two or three years. We are very economical, and hence don't run into any prodigious debts, but we are quite used to running our heads a few hundred dollars a year into the ground.

I hope what I have said may be of some use to you, and I shall be very glad to answer at any time any specific or supplementary enquiries.

Yours very truly,

ELMER TRUESDELL MERRILL.

## WILLIAMS COLLEGE.

Respecting football in Williams College, I believe that, with all the evils that may be charged against this form of college athletics, the game is productive of more good than harm. Exclusive of bodily injuries, which constitute in my judgment the most serious objection to the game, the evils which result from football are in a large measure incidental, but of a kind that might be avoided with a gain to this sport in every way.

Individual students undoubtedly suffer in scholarship from excessive devotion of time and thought to this game ; but it is most likely that such students would fail in scholarship for other reasons if this kind of athletics did not exist here.

I am not disposed to think that the excitement from intercollegiate games is with us excessive or unwholesome ; it may fairly be questioned whether the detraction from college work which these games occasion is more serious than the inattention we should suffer from other causes in the absence of this more vigorous form of physical training.

Regarding the moral aspects of football, about which so much has been said, my own observation has not led me to regard this game as necessarily brutalizing or unfavorable to the manliest type of character ; to be sure, a player who has not learned to keep the brute in him in subjection may be brutal under the provocations this game supplies ; but even such players learn sooner or later that intelligence and manly self-control are cardinal virtues in the good football player not less than elsewhere ; and for the greater number of students I believe football has proved a most excellent schooling in moral self-control and manly conduct. The only really serious objections to this form of college athletics I can see are the bodily injuries that constitute a liability as

yet unpreventable. It may be possible, however, to eliminate very largely this element of peril by some modifications in methods of playing and more care in training ; if so, I should feel justified in saying let football remain with us, and do not enfeeble it by too severe restrictions about it, or by too radical changes in the game itself.

JOHN E. RUSSELL.

YALE UNIVERSITY.

In addition to the list of standings sent you you can put this down to the credit of football men, namely, that the average standing of the sixteen men who were members of the team last fall, and of those who were the substitutes (only *academics*, all regulars and subs), was *above* the average standing of the highest class graduated here.

Yours,

E. L. RICHARDS.

*From Rev. C. C. Camp, Seabury Divinity School, Valedictorian Yale, 1877*

From articles that from time to time find their way into the public prints, it seems to me that there is in many minds an entire misconception of the causes of the injuries occasionally received by players in the game of football. It is sometimes said, and apparently often thought, that players are guilty of intentionally injuring their opponents. This I believe, from my own experience and observation, is scarcely ever the case. It is true that in the excitement of the game contestants have been known to lose their tempers and strike out with their fists, but every captain of a team knows how the loss of self-control in such cases of temper injures the efficiency of his men, and therefore does his utmost, independently of the rules, to prevent such outbursts.



The general influence of the game is doubtless to teach men courage, endurance, and self-control.

There are very few forms of exercise that call into play so completely all the muscles of the body and mind. That which seems extreme roughness to those unaccustomed to vigorous exercise is often scarcely regarded by those whose muscles are hardened and toughened by constant use. Those who come together in the hardest collisions in the course of the game are often close friends when away from the football field.

While deprecating the betting which is often connected with college athletics, it ought to be always remembered that the tendency of the age and country, and not the legitimate sports of the young men in our universities, is responsible for this, and if base-ball, boating, and football were entirely suppressed, the betting in some form, probably worse, would still go on. We must not confound the mere occasion with the underlying cause.

My observation, both before and since my graduation, has led me to think that college athletics have done much to promote the moral welfare of our great universities. Forms of hazing and dissipation, formerly far too prevalent, have been greatly diminished or entirely abolished since the revival of athletic interest, which dates from about the time our colleges adopted the Rugby game in football.

The increase of athletic clubs among our business men is also a healthy sign of the times; and while no one would wish to commend all that is done under their auspices, we may well trust the day is far distant when college sports and amateur athletics shall be abolished.

Very truly yours,

CHARLES CLARK CAMP.



## CHAPTER IV

### LETTERS FROM CAPTAINS

*E. V. Baker, Captain Yale Team, 1876*

I played football for ten years, the last two years according to the modern Rugby rules, which I had the pleasure of introducing at Yale. I was a member of the Yale University team during my entire college course and took part in more than twenty match games with Harvard, Princeton, Columbia, an English team from Eton, England, Canadian, and many other college teams, always playing forward except the last two years, when, as captain of the Yale team, I had to play back to better direct the game.

I never suffered an injury of any kind except once. I sprained a toe, which prevented my playing in one game. With this one exception I never had to leave a game or give way to a substitute upon any occasion. I was always in perfect health and good physical condition as the direct result of my football work, and to this development and training I attribute the good health that has been mine ever since leaving college, during years of close application to business in which I have found no time for physical culture. During the first two years of Rugby football at Yale injuries of any kind were almost unknown. The same men played in every game throughout the season, a substitute never once being called in. I believe football offers the best opportunities of developing all the powers of the body, and of cultivating energy, courage, self-restraint, and

discipline of the mind, and with properly regulated rules should be entirely free from danger to health or person.

*W. A. Brooks, Jr., Captain Harvard Team*

In regard to question 1. I do not remember that any man was compelled to leave the field in the game with Yale (fall of '86) on account of injury. I will look up this point more carefully later.

Question 2. In regard to the physical results of the game in my time—I think, yes, *am sure*, that every man who played was greatly benefited. In my opinion there is no branch of sport which does a man more good, provided that he is not worked to death, than football.

*Alexander Moffat, Captain Princeton Team*

In answer to your two queries I will say in regard to the first that in our game with Yale of that year, Wana-maker played the first half with rather a lame knee, and we didn't let him play the second half for fear that he might give out. He was the only man on our team who had to leave the field. In our Harvard game no one was hurt.

The second query is more difficult to answer as it depends upon what interpretation one puts upon the term "bad results." Physically, I know of no injuries which have caused serious inconvenience in after-life. Sometimes during the pursuance of the game boys have neglected their studies at college, but it is a query as to whether these same boys would not have neglected their studies under any circumstances, and, therefore, not fairly chargeable to football.

The good results are both physical and mental.

The physical good is patent to anyone. A boy can get good, violent, out-door exercise at a time of life when

a good, strong, healthy boy seeks and needs violent exercise to develop his muscles and strengthen his frame. His training is such that it is necessary for him to eat food at precisely regular hours, which builds up and strengthens the digestion. This was markedly proved by the case of Holly on our team this year. There was a man who had been under a doctor's advisement for two years with a chronic stomach trouble, so severe that he was unable to play last year. This year, by careful watching and dieting and training, his condition so improved that he played through every one of the important games with no inconvenience, and at the end of the season confessed to me that he had not felt so well in over two years.

I could remember many cases in which a boy's physical condition has been greatly improved by playing the game, *as it is played at the larger universities*. It is the fact that every boy who plays regularly and for any length of time is benefited.

Mentally, the game benefits a young man by teaching him self-control in various way. He must learn to keep his temper, to control any propensity he may have for indulging in luxuries or dissipation of any kind. He must be able to submit himself to the severe discipline which the captain puts him under, and do so without a murmur. He must learn how to so train his mind as to make himself a part of a unified team working for the attainment of the one object.

*J. H. Sears, Captain Harvard Team*

The year of my captaincy was 1888. That year we had no game with Yale. The Princeton game, played on Princeton's grounds, resulted in no injury sufficient to require any member of my team to leave the field. One man, Frank Woodman, was exhausted at the end

of the first half, but played through the rest of the game at the orders of the umpire. Victor Harding was slightly injured just before the close of the game, but recovered within a day or two afterward.

It seems to me impossible to overstate the good results of the game during my year. The college was then just beginning to be extremely enthusiastic over football. Football men held the highest position in the respect of their classmates. They were setting a standard which has increased in efficacy since then for the other undergraduates of the university; a standard of temperance, self-control, attention to work, and manliness. So far as I have been able to follow the men who were on that team, they are now—all of them that are living—standing well in the communities in which they live, and promise to be successful men. While in college, if I remember rightly, every man but one stood considerably above the middle of his class.

I can honestly say that I do not know of any bad results from those two months of football. I wish I could say the same for the other months of the college year while I was at the university.

*H. W. Cowan, Captain Princeton Team*

In regard to that first question : In the year 1887 with Harvard none left the field from injury, and with Yale the same year one of the Princeton boys was exhausted so that his brother took his place. No particular injury : he had not fully recovered from the game with Harvard the week before. In 1888 no one was injured in either game.

The second question it is harder to answer. In regard to the playing of the game, I did not think that it could be called a dangerous game. My own experience of five years of playing in nearly every game from the very

first to the end of the season, I never left the field on account of injury. In fact, I was injured more by playing tennis, as I sprained my ankle playing tennis after having played the whole season at football. I am of the opinion, however, that it would be well, as the game has developed and the turn it has taken, to do a little legislating in regard to the flying wedge. I was not an eyewitness to the game when it was played, so perhaps am not competent to judge. I simply can see how such a kind of game would make the play much more dangerous.

*Ray Tompkins, Captain Yale Team*

As to your two questions, I would answer the first by saying that in the two years that I was captain no member of our team was compelled to leave the game during the match with Princeton or Harvard. The second question could be answered at greater length than I have time to spare. I should, in a general way, say that there are very, very few permanent injuries received from playing the game. I presume no more than happens in any other vigorous out-door sport. The good results that are brought about are altogether too numerous to be mentioned by me during the remainder of my life. Outside of the physical improvement to be derived, I should like to pay more attention to the great improvement one's mind derives from the game. We know very well that we have seen men physically quickened to such a degree as to be visibly perceptible. If you have a machine down there for measuring the quickness of mental perception, I will guarantee to take any set of men picked out by any professor, and I will, with the game of football, show greater improvement in the above direction than he can by any mental process that he is able to contrive. Discipline and

courage are certainly the most desirable things to be taught any young man in this country. We know that we can take any of our well-trained football men, and order them to do anything on earth, and they will do it, without thinking twice, to the best of their ability. A great many games are played by people who become expert simply because it is their desire to do so. I would venture to say that a large proportion of football players are trained and do their best out of a sense of duty, and as the result of a high course of discipline. The number of men in the college who derive exercise mentally and physically from this game are a great many more than from any other of our sports.

*Albert F. Holden, Captain Harvard Team*

Question No. 1. In the Harvard-Princeton game in 1887 there were two players hurt badly enough to cause their removal from the field. Price, half-back of the Princeton team, was badly cut about the mouth, and had his nose bruised. He claimed he was *weak from the loss of blood*, and was taken from the field. On our side I was the only one hurt. I had my sternum bone fractured while tackling Price. I was laid up for a year or so.

In the Harvard-Yale game in 1887, no one was hurt on either side except Wallace of Yale, who sprained his ankle. Sears of Harvard left the field, but not from injuries received in the game.

Answering Question No. 2. I am a thorough believer in football as it was played in my time and down to 1891. Since then I have more or less lost track of the game. I believe it teaches cool action in a crisis and concentration of purpose, both of which, even in my short business career, I have found to be valuable traits

in practical life. All this is perhaps dictum in answering your question. Practically, and by practically I mean from a player's and spectator's point of view, I consider our old game fully satisfactory. I consider the introduction of the mass plays a backward step and one that was never contemplated by the framers of the rules.

*P. Taylor Bryan, Captain Princeton Team*

No. 1. During the time in which I was captain of the Princeton football team, I do not recollect that the injuries received by the men in the match games with Harvard and Yale were serious enough to cause them to leave the field for more than a short time. In other words, my recollection is that the team which began to play in each of those games continued to play throughout that game, and that no substitutes were used except for a short time during the game.

I do not recollect the nature of the injuries received by any of the players.

No. 2. In my opinion, the game of football as it was played in my time led generally, and almost without exception, as far as I can recollect, to good results. Men were injured in practice games it is true, and also in some of the match games, but the injuries were, with few exceptions, not of a nature at all serious.

I think the game, as it was played in my time, had a tendency to make a man physically strong and active. It had also a tendency to develop him mentally, by teaching him to be cool and collected under circumstances which would ordinarily have tended to excite him. And if I may express an opinion, I would say that such is the natural tendency of the game. If it has had other tendencies in particular instances or in particular seasons, it would seem to me that it must have been the



result either of accident or of innovations in the rules or method of playing the game.

I may also add, that while I have no doubt that the game could be improved upon, I regret to see the tendency in some quarters to abolish the playing of the game altogether; I think that such action would be unwarranted by any results likely to be obtained.

*Marcus M. Kimball, Captain Harvard Team*

During the two years that I played at Harvard, I do not remember any accidents of a serious nature which occurred in match games with the exception of the Princeton-Harvard game in fall of '83. In this game a large number of Harvard men were laid up; but it was almost entirely due to the slippery condition of the ground. During the several years that I played the game, the only injury of any account which I received was the knocking out of two teeth. As a game I do not think there is anything to compare with football for development of physique, courage, quickness of judgment, and endurance. And I should be more than sorry to see it stopped. At the same time, as a spectator only, I should be glad to see the game opened out by any means possible, and a stoppage, or at least a lessening, of the present style of mass play; and I do not see why there cannot be just as much team work in an open game with less danger of serious accident and a large increase of interest to the spectator. It has always been my opinion that the root of the evil was not to be found in the rules of football; but in the knowledge (or rather lack of knowledge) of the spectators, and the spirit of applauding *any* play that is *successful*. Anything, therefore, that will really interest the public and teach them to really understand the game is to me the thing to be desired.

*Ralph H. Warren, Captain Princeton Team*

In reply to question 1, would say that in our game with Yale in '91 we had the same team throughout the match. That year we did not play Harvard.

Concerning bad and good results of the game of that fall—from the effects of the football season on the men that I had to handle—should say that physically they were much benefited by the play and the training. The training of that year and previous ones at Princeton, however, was radically different from the system in operation now. It was more on the “beef and one glass of water a meal” plan, and playing the best men throughout season, every game, without rest. This was partly due, however, to the lack of sufficient number of good candidates to divide work. With the exception of the captain, who suffered from over-training and the mental strain after the fall's work, I think no member of the team suffered anything but trifling injuries during entire season. During my last year at football, a man of ordinary intelligence had an abundance of time, if he were taking an undergraduate course, to play on the team and yet stand high in his class. I hope, when the college representatives meet to consider changes in this year's rules, that besides doing away with flying interference they will consider the advantages of the English game of open running and passing as compared to those of our American interference.

*T. L. McClung, Captain Yale Team*

Regarding question number 1, I would say that during my captaincy of the Yale team, fall 1891—there was not a single player who left the field from injury or any other reason, in either the Harvard or Princeton games. The same is true of the Harvard team and

also of the Princeton eleven. In other words, twenty-two men, and twenty-two alone, participated in the Yale-Harvard game, and also in the Yale-Princeton contest.

To question number 2, I reply that in my time the good results so far outnumbered the bad that the latter were hardly worth considering. I think I can say that the one drawback to our fall college game is the amount of time which every player must devote to it to the exclusion of nearly everything else while the season is on; but that applies in a measure, too, to the other sports.

I take for granted that the men who go into the game are physically able to stand a certain amount of rough, healthy playing. There is little danger of injury if the men, by constant training, gradually bring themselves to the point of "perfect condition."

The accidents which do happen almost invariably occur to careless young fellows who have had little experience with the game and its requirements. I refer, of course, to serious accidents.

*Wm. Herbert Corbin, Captain Yale Team*

No. 1. During my captaincy no member of the eleven was compelled to leave the field during the match with Princeton on account of injuries received. The game with Harvard was forfeited to Yale.

No. 2. In my opinion the football season of 1888 was marked by the greatest development of the game under the rules then existing. The present methods of interference had not come into general use. The play was more open than at present, and the dangers accompanying the present style of interference and "mass plays" were absent. The good results were far in excess of the bad.

*H. W. Beecher, Captain Yale Team*

No. 1. Fall of '87—Princeton vs. Yale. No one hurt. Harvard vs. Yale, Woodruff injured his knee (sprain). Wallace strained muscles of his calf.

No. 2. The majority of injuries my year were sprains or strains, and I remember no more serious accident. The most of these were received in the early part of the season before the men had become hardened in muscles and supple in joints. It is such a hard game to moderate that the excitement of the moment drives men to play beyond the limit warranted by their condition in the early season, and injuries received then generally last and are a bother in the final games.

*Eugene L. Richards, Jr., Captain Yale Team*

In reference to the other enquiries made by you, as captain in 1884 I would say that the only player injured in a big game was myself. I had my ankle dislocated in the Yale-Princeton game on Thanksgiving Day, 1884, and was laid up for about six weeks. I have never had any trouble from it since.

As to the advantage of the game, I do not think I can express myself as well as you can, but my own opinion of the game is that it is the best test and cultivator of courage, judgment, perseverance, and physical and intellectual quickness that exists.

*T. G. Trenchard, Captain Princeton Team*

In the Yale game, Balliet had his head cut a little, and Lea had a knock on his backbone which laid them both up for a short time, and that is the extent of our injuries. The only thing I have against football is that the men who have recitations after practice are apt

to cut them because they would rather lie down, being a little tired.

Everything else favors the game. A man's health is improved, he becomes more manly, it teaches him to think and act quickly, to take advantage of every opportunity.

*Robert N. Corwin, Captain Yale Team, and also for Captain Peters\**

We did not play Harvard in the fall of '85, under the captaincy of Frank Peters. In the Princeton game of that year none of our men were injured as far as I remember, or as far as the newspapers, which are careful to record such matters, show.

*Tracy H. Harris, for DeCamp, Captain Princeton Team*

I do not remember any one being injured or compelled to retire from the field in the Yale game played in fall of '85. Princeton and Harvard did not play that year.

As to the second question I would say the results physically were good. As far as I know no one of the players of that time has attributed any illness or weakness to injuries or strains received in playing.

On the contrary, I believe after ten years of accumulation of fat every one wishes he might again experience the sensation of a perfect physical condition. Increased avoirdupois is the only bad result I know.

There is no question but that the training, both mental and physical, was of much value.

I regret the question has arisen that the game needs vindication. It can only arise with those who do not know it practically. I am confident that every old

\* Frank G. Peters, Captain Yale team, died of typhoid fever seven years after graduation.

player, almost without exception, is ready to maintain that it is, of all the athletic sports, the most vigorous, manly, and beneficial.

*Philip King, Captain Princeton Team*

In the Yale-Princeton game of '92, which year I was captain, not a Princeton man, either through injury or any other cause, was compelled to leave the field. Of the Yale team L. Bliss, who entered the game with an injured knee, was compelled to retire ten minutes before the close of the game.

In the last ten years at Princeton two men have had their legs broken, which have been the most serious accidents during that time.

Personally, the game has done me untold good. I have developed myself, have learned self-restraint, it has helped me when and how to act in a crisis, has given me entire self-possession, and I think better fitted me to take up the battle of life.

*Robert N. Corwin, Captain Yale Team*

If my memory serves me rightly, we had no occasion to make use of a substitute during either of the games of my captaincy. Certainly no injury was received by any of the men of a serious enough character to have lodged in my memory; and if I were asked to select men who represented Yale physically, I am sure I should not be able to do better than select the men who played with me, senior year.

Of course, we all know that the game is not entirely devoid of danger, but I believe that this can be almost entirely eliminated; and I believe that the first step in this direction is, if possible, to put a stop to this battering-ram work, which is not only dangerous but monotonous, and to return to something of the game as

played a half dozen years ago. In my time most of the serious accidents which came to my notice happened to men who never should have gone on football fields. Of the latest phases of the game I can only judge from the newspaper reports, and it would seem as if the various wedges and rams were developing the rougher possibilities in football, and adding little or nothing to the better sides of the game.

*C. O. Gill, Captain Yale Team*

In answer to your first question I would say that in neither the Harvard nor Princeton games in 1889 did any Yale player receive an injury so serious as to cause him to leave the field.

Two players attempted to play in the Princeton game, one at the beginning and the other later, in the place of a disqualified player, and on account of previous injuries found it impossible to play well enough to remain in the field. They were not, however, injured during the game.

As to bad results of the game, I can think of no serious injury received by any of the players while I was in college. Interference with studies was only necessary in the case of the captain. In his case I think the experience gained in managing the team more than compensated for the temporary interference with the college curriculum.

As to the good results, I believe the discipline of the careful training and hard work was of the greatest benefit to the players.

Intercollegiate athletics, contrary to the claims of recent newspaper articles, tend to stimulate general exercise throughout the college, not merely in scrub games, but in walking and running out-doors, and work in the gymnasium, kicking football, and passing foot-



ball, base-ball, and tennis-ball, and in any other form of out-door exercise. The general habit of exercise is mainly due to the intercollegiate contests and the example of the teams training for them. In this way the games are indirectly of the greatest benefit to the general health of the men in college.

It is my impression that now more time is spent in preparation for the final games than formerly, and that the mass play makes the game somewhat more violent, but at the time I was in college the objections against football commonly urged had little ground.

I know of no player whose health was injured by the game. I have enjoyed the best of health ever since graduation, and am of the opinion that the exercise in the autumn air strengthens one's constitution and has no injurious effect.

*W. C. Rhodes, Captain Yale Team*

In answer to question No. 1, would say that H. W. Williams was the only man on my team to leave the field during the Harvard game; his injury was only a slight strain in his shoulder. In the Princeton game P. W. Harvey was the only one to leave the game; his injury consisted of a sprained ankle, but did not amount to much, as he was able to walk without assistance of any kind. Question No. 2. The results of the game in my time. There is but one answer to this question, and that is, they were, in every case of the thirty men playing, *good*.

*Vance McCormick, Captain Yale Team*

The first question is easily answered, as Laurie Bliss was the only man laid off in the Harvard and Princeton games, and he in the last five minutes of the game,

caused by his knee—which he injured while fooling on the lawn at Newport—playing out.

Looking at the game from a Yale man's point of view, or rather looking at the whole season, I was terribly impressed with a tired feeling when, after having beaten Pennsylvania and Harvard, we still had a hard fight between us and the championship. The game as played in our year, when wedges were resorted to principally, was rather uninteresting to the ordinary spectator. And to the player having a good team working gradually down on him yard by yard, with no prospects of keeping them from gaining their distance, is rather disheartening, and uses a man up more completely than anything else.

*Bertram Gordon Waters, Captain Harvard Team*

During the Yale game of 1893 only one man, myself, was obliged to leave the field. The cause was the giving out of a *previously weak knee* that had so troubled me that I had grave doubts of getting through the game before going into it. The knee is now entirely well. As you know, of course, we did not play Princeton.

I think that the good results of the game far outweigh the few and minor bad results that we see quoted among the great mass of stuff printed in the newspapers against the game.

In giving to a man determination, self-reliance, and the training of good discipline, I think the game cannot be equalled, and giving, as it does, out-door exercise to so many in the fall I think all who have played the game will agree with me that its advantages are far greater than its dangers.

Speaking personally, if my own experience is of any use to you, I may say that I feel that my work on football has benefited me greatly, and some of the time thus spent to have been as valuably spent as any other during my college course.

*Edward C. Peace, Captain Princeton Team*

During the period which I was captain of the Princeton football team in the year 1882, I have no recollection of any accident which caused any member of the Princeton team to leave the field in any game between Princeton and Yale or Princeton and Harvard. I would like to add, I played football for four years, between 1875 and 1879, at St. Paul's school ; during that time I never saw an accident that resulted in a broken bone. I entered Princeton in the fall of 1879. Was a member of the team as the only member of the freshman class of '83, and played for four years on the team representing Princeton University. In those four years the worst injury I ever saw was a broken collar-bone. In the game played at the Polo Grounds in the fall of 1880, Princeton *vs.* Harvard, when Winton P., '84, kicked a goal in about the last ten minutes, I was tripped (entirely unintentionally by Perrin of Harvard, Cincinnati). I think you refereed the game. I was off the field for five minutes in the last seven minutes of the first half.

Any remarks I can make or anything I can say to advance the interest of the colleges in American football I will gladly, as I always have tried to. Knowing, as I always have, your deep interest in the game, and your true spirit to keep the game purely amateur, if I can do the game anything to help it along, you can always call on me, for no one ever loved it more.

*H. A. Mackey, Captain University of Pennsylvania Team*

In our game with Princeton last season, Mr. Gelbert, a half-back, was the only man who was compelled to leave the field, he sustaining a slightly sprained ankle, which was entirely well in three weeks' time, and he is now playing base-ball.

In our game with Yale Mr. Newton, playing end-rush, left the field after the game was about two-thirds over, on account of a weak ankle, naturally weak, and becoming painful through weariness.

As to my opinion on the good and bad results of the game, I would say that I have always looked upon a game of football as a great training-school for the mind, and have always thought that upon the gridiron could be learned lessons better calculated to help a man in after life than in any class-room of any college. A man by his football training learns to look ahead of him to some great object he wishes to accomplish, and then, sacrificing every personal pleasure if it be necessary, he summons every power of his body and his mind to accomplish that object. When a football man goes upon the field of play in one of the important matches of the present day, he carries with him the accumulated energy of months of training and study. He knows that he carries with him the honor of his college. He knows that he is about to wage a battle that will be talked and written about for years to come. He meets a thousand different complications upon that field, and it is the team that has the greatest amount of mental activity, other things being equal, that is going to carry off the honors of the day. The venerable Dr. McCosh, in addressing a body of Princeton students at one time, said, "Gentlemen, you learn more by your defeats than by your victories," and in this thought I find one of the greatest arguments in favor of college football in that when a college football player goes out into the world to battle with the stern realities of life, if he be true to the instincts of his college training he will not be dejected or discouraged by any misfortune that he may meet with, but, true to his early instructions upon the gridiron, he will look hopefully to the future, expecting better results from better work.

*C. H. Schoff, Captain University of Pennsylvania Team.*

In our game with Princeton while I was captain, two men were compelled to leave the field, I being one of the number, and my injury was re-hurting a knee which had been in the first place injured by playing base-ball and thereby made weak and easily hurt. The other player, Mr. Knipe, also having a bad knee, the result of an accident entirely foreign to the game.

In the game with Yale, three players retired at the end of the first half, through slight disabilities in nowise permanent, the same players being to-day perfectly sound. As to the good or bad results from the game, I am perhaps not an impartial judge, but I cannot see any harm coming from a game where such traits of character as prudence, self-sacrifice and total abstinence, pluck and intellect are employed so largely, and where medical authorities tell us that the injuries occasionally received are very small as compared with the great advantages thereby derived.

*Edgar M. Church, Captain University of Pennsylvania Team*

As to injuries received by players while I was captain, I only remember one, that of Mr. Poe of Princeton, who was forced to leave the field on account of a broken nose received from butting into the hips of one of his own players. This injury was received through carelessness on his part and not on account of the roughness of any set system of playing.

Mr. Thayer was once forced to leave the field on account of the intentional hitting by one of his opponents. This injury was received in an open field and while he was endeavoring to punt the ball.

I can see no bad results from the game of football as played at present, and never remember having heard or

seen of a man who was properly trained receiving any injuries necessitating his laying off for more than a week or so.

It seems to me this cry (injury) is worked about to a standstill. It is done for sympathy's sake, and the papers use it as a means of tales which toady to the minds of a good many of their readers.

*E. Miel, Captain University of Pennsylvania Team*

I cannot recall any serious injury to any member of the University of Pennsylvania team in the games with Harvard, Yale, or Princeton. When any player was laid off the cause generally was the renewal of an old hurt or sprain received perhaps years before.

In reply to question 2 :

*a.* Bad results. At that time interference was being largely developed. A tendency to hold on the line, and in consequence blows and bad blood. Just here was the spot where the ugliest playing was done.

*b.* Good results : Interference brought about a better protection for half-backs and runners. Less liability to injury by not being thrown so heavily.

My experience has led me to favor the game as a splendid exercise for muscle, intelligence, and grit.

*Thomas W. Hulme, Captain University of Pennsylvania Team*

1. I do not recall any cases during the period that I captained the university team where any of our men were seriously injured in games with Harvard, Yale, or Princeton. We often found it necessary to call in substitutes, but our facilities at that time for properly training the candidates for the football team did not compare favorably with those of other prominent teams, and to this extent our men labored at a disadvantage,



resulting at times, in their games with teams who had the advantage of superior training, in some of our men being compelled to leave the field from physical exhaustion.

2. An opinion must be largely based upon personal experiences, so in answering your second question I can say that I believe my football training has been of great assistance and value to me in business and private life. It is in my opinion the game best suited to teach a man the advantage of full control of himself under exciting and trying conditions, conditions which at times might readily offer an excuse for the indulgence of passion, the exercise of which would lessen his usefulness to his companions and saddle him with contempt. It compels prompt action upon new situations constantly arising in the course of a game, which can only be of inestimable benefit to the man.

The physical benefits resulting to a man who plays the game, and who has trained faithfully, must not be underestimated. I believe that the little time thus lost from his studies is more than compensated for during the balance of the college year, and in after life by the good health which a strong constitution thus built up insures.



## CHAPTER V

### LETTERS FROM PLAYERS \*

ONE cannot help being impressed with the unanimity of opinion among the players that the game has been of benefit to them. The following letters come from men, some of whom have wandered far indeed from their alma mater, but almost every one has a good word to say of his old sport.

CHITTOOR, INDIA, April 26, 1894.

In the interest of this fine game I am moved to add my experience :

I played football throughout my college course at Rutgers (1878-1882) and part of my theological seminary course (1882-1886). For four of those years I was regularly on the 'varsity team and captain in 1882, in the year, I think, in which Rutgers scored the touchdown against Yale—the *first*, I think—and when you arrived later in the game at New Brunswick and we first discovered your presence by a drop kick for a goal from the field ! But this is reminiscence.

I have been in India for six years and my bicycle has carried me far and near, by day and by night, and I have no doubt that much of my endurance is attributable

\* I wish to thank the many old players who took the pains to write and who made such capital suggestions for the game. All their suggestions were with pleasure submitted by me to the Rules Committee, and I should print them here did not the hard-hearted publishers insist that I keep this book within a prescribed limit.—WALTER CAMP.

to my football experience. In our mission there are three old football players, and I fancy no one will question our claim to the greatest endurance and general good health and strength. Very sincerely,

(Rev.) W. I. CHAMBERLAIN,

Rutgers, 1882.

NEW YORK, March 17, 1894.

The game as played to-day is much too rough, and its excessive roughness first crept into the game when the original rule for "off side" play was changed. When the game was first introduced in this country (in the fall of '74) a player was "off side," and therefore out of the game, when the ball had been caught or touched, or was being run with, by any of his own side *behind him*.

A player was put "on side" when the ball had been caught or touched by any player on the opposite side or when the player on his own side, who caught the ball, had run past him.

When "off side" a player was considered out of the game. He could not touch the ball in any case whatever, except only when "in touch," or in any way interrupt a play or obstruct a player.

The most important rule of the whole list, in my opinion, is this one defining "off side" play. The whole idea of the Rugby game centers on this point, that to be "on side" a player must be behind the ball.

Return to the original rule, as defined above, and you must necessarily cut out much of the roughness of the present game, for the so-called "modern interference" would not be allowed, and it is this "off side" interference ("off side" being used in its original sense) that has made the game seem brutal.

I believe in the more open game, where passing, dodging, and drop-kicking for goal were the beautiful features of the game.

There is one other change I would advise : I believe the ball should be put in play by a "kick off."

Very truly yours,

H. S. SEAMAN.

BOSTON, MASS., March 20, 1894.

I so heartily endorse your efforts for *facts* about football that I write a line to you personally.

You will remember that E. T. Cabot, '83, was the captain of our team of the fall of 1882. He, poor fellow, died a few months ago, of a chronic trouble in no way connected with athletics. I only wish he could answer in person your enquiries. I believe my friend Arthur Lymon has given you a short account of his experience. I played with him for years and it was he and Tom Thacher and myself who seemed to thrive most under rough handling, and Cabot, I believe, never was absent from a game in college, and he played for many years in school with no injury.

With regard to the games under his captaincy : In the Princeton-Harvard game there was no one hurt, the eleven men playing through. In the Yale-Harvard game Wesselhoft, '84, had his ankle badly sprained, and Adams took his place. His was the only injury in the two games. This was in the fall of 1882.

Yours very truly,

GEO. B. MORISON.

CHICAGO, March 10, 1894.

You will find enclosed the printed questions duly answered.

If you read the enclosed sketch of my injury you will know why I have answered questions Nos. 5 and 6 as I have.

I have cheerfully taken the time and trouble necessary to write it, in order that you might have the evidence

necessary to clear of all blame the game we both enjoy playing so much.

I care for football as I care for no other game. Some of my happiest hours have been spent in the exhilaration of a well-contested field. And although I have been thrown often and have contributed to the overthrow of some, no one ever hurt me nor did I ever injure anyone (except myself, by twisting my knee).

Sincerely,

WM. W. K. NIXON.

MELBOURNE, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA, June 7, 1894.

The printed questions I have answered and enclosed. You ask besides for an expression of opinion from me as to the game of football. I think it one of the grandest games ever played for those who can play it without too much effort and without too much fatigue. A man should be "adapted" to it, that is, take to it naturally for the love of the game and not for the *kudos* he may win.

I have watched with interest your close connection with the game since I left New Haven, as also your efforts to effect such improvement as the condition of the game suggested. For ten years I have been out of touch with the Rugby game or any modification of it. The game played here, and watched by upward of fifty thousand people every Saturday for five months in the year, is as near as can be the game played at Yale when big Fulton was captain and the following year—of course you remember it. Certain unimportant modifications have been made with a view of making it a fast game. At present I consider it a finer game, from a spectator's point of view, than the Rugby game played at Yale in 1879 and 1880. But all this is outside the matter on which you asked for information.

I sympathize with you in your efforts to free the

game from any objectional features as well as from false prejudice in the eyes of the public.

If you would like any further information as to the game played in this part of the world do not hesitate to write, for it will afford me great pleasure to reply.

Yours, most sincerely,

RUDOLF WURTS.

TOKYO, JAPAN, April 19, 1894.

I of course do not agree with the opinion that football should be prohibited in the schools and colleges. There is quite too much good in it to justify the current wholesale denunciation on the score of dangers involved. At the same time I should be glad to see changes made in the rules that would prevent, or at least limit, mass plays and other rougher features of the game.

I certainly hope that the enemies of the game will not win ; but that changes may be agreed upon such as shall satisfy the public that American Rugby is really what it claims to be—a manly exercise and discipline, and rather a safeguard against than a cultivator of ruffianism in American student life.

I am, yours very truly,

THEODORE M. MAC NAIR.

BOSTON, March 12, 1894.

Your circular letter with enclosed questions was received to-day, and I will of course do all in my power to help you in collecting data.

My injury was received in the middle of November, and kept me away from college until the following April, and out of all athletics during the college year.

Football, in my mind, is without doubt the best game we have for physical and mental training ; but at the same time I must confess that the above accident cooled my ardor for the game personally, and all the more, as

you will appreciate, as it prevented my playing on the only base-ball nine that was able to win its series against Yale during my college course. If I can help you in any way I will gladly do so.

Yours very truly,

WALTER D. PHILLIPS.

NEW YORK, May 14, 1894.

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I add my testimony to the good of football. I believe in it most thoroughly as a man and as a physician, provided of course the player is well and strong, "in condition," and has no organic trouble. Almost all the injuries, certainly all the serious ones, that have come under my notice, have been primarily due to lack of condition. In my own case I cannot speak too strongly in favor of the game. It gave me the strength to combat successfully a severe sickness with threatened loss of my eyesight. I have always talked in favor of the game to fathers and mothers who had boys to send to college. Its general influence is good. It is, above all others, the gentleman's game.

I remain, very sincerely,

WM. HOMES TATLER, M. D.

PHILADELPHIA, March 31, 1894.

I consider, from a physical standpoint, that I have very much to be thankful for for the benefits received through training for and playing football.

I knew little or nothing about the game until my freshman year in college, and, by accident, one day found myself in the midst of a "scrub," from which time I continued to take an active interest in the game and it proved to be of great and lasting benefit to me. I always feel thoroughly enthused over the game and believe it will always be esteemed a most manly sport.

Yours very truly,

RODMAN WANAMAKER.

BOSTON, April 7, 1894.

I have never received serious injury in playing football. I have had innumerable little hurts that were disagreeable at the time, but I regard such injuries as really a precious part of the training in teaching fortitude to bear any other hardships. An injury to my nose left it slightly out of shape, but just as good for all practical purposes.

After I was taken from the field at Springfield in the Yale game a year ago last fall, I was unconscious for ten or fifteen minutes, but I never knew why I was so, and I was all right as soon as I came to my senses. I think I may fairly say that my injuries sustained in football have not been severe enough to deserve any notice.

Very sincerely,

J. D. UPTON.

PHILADELPHIA, April 19, 1894.

With regard to question No. 2, perhaps I should have said that while playing at school I injured my wrist, and not having afterward taken any care of it, nature took care of it, but in such a way that the bone or ligament, or whatever it was that was injured, knitted wrong, and I have since been unable to bend my hand back at all and when boxing it has often troubled me, hurting me considerably.

This injury, I may say, was permanent I suppose.

You may remember another injury which I received, and which may or may not enter into the subject. I refer to the season of 1891, and the University of Pennsylvania-Princeton game. I was struck from behind, after playing about fifteen minutes, by one of the Princeton men, the blow being right on my temple. I had had a very severe and heavy cold, from which I was suffering at the time, and played against the advice of my doctor. The blow and this



condition I was in "put me out of the game," as I did not know where I was for fully five minutes.

The blow was one with the fist and not accidental in any way, therefore cannot be traced to the roughness of football.

Yours very truly,

HARRY C. THAYER.

GERMANTOWN, April 22, 1894.

I think the general effect of the sport is very beneficial. I think no one will dispute its physically beneficial results. The general belief is that football brings out all that is brutal in a man. I dispute this, however, and think on the contrary that it represses these instincts. During the season a man must be physically moral, even if he is not morally moral. After the first weeks of drudgery in getting the summer's fat off, if one have any (I never had), the clear eye and the satin skin are sure tokens of a man who is at peace with the world and with himself. He is very liable to want to remain in that condition. I keep in half training all the time. By half training I mean getting as much exercise as possible, but not necessarily keeping early hours or denying myself pastry. I never had a taste for liquor or tobacco.

I can study much better, concentrate my mind and attain much better results when I have plenty of exercise.

Football is a splendid training for a man. It teaches him obedience to orders, prompt decision in plays and under circumstances that arise unexpectedly against which it is impossible to provide. The powers of observation are sharpened.

Very truly yours,

LOUIS DE P. VAIL.

PHILADELPHIA, April 20, 1894.

I consider football one of the grandest games that is played. My experience on the football field has stood

me in good stead and has taught me self-possession and the faculty of deciding quickly and accurately. I believe that in many ways it fits a man for the business of life when he comes in contact with his fellow-men.

I have been out of college for nine years, but I endeavor, at every opportunity to see a good game of football.

Yours very truly,

W. S. HARVEY.

BOSTON, MASS., May 1, 1894.

George Morison turned over to me your enquiries to Billy Manning, and I will answer for him, for Ted Cabot and I were, I suppose, his most intimate friends in college.

1. Manning was captain during falls of 1880 and 1881, and while I have no recollection of any Harvard man being hurt seriously in the Yale and Princeton games (and I played in all), I went yesterday in order to make, as thorough and reliable a search as possible to the Harvard library. I looked through the files of the *Crimson* and *Advocate*.

I find that the only case mentioned of any injury received in these games for falls of 1880 and 1881 was in the case of Boyd and Foster *slightly* injured a few minutes before the close of game with Yale on Boston base-ball grounds, November 20, 1880.

This injury must have been a very slight one, or I should have remembered it.

At New Haven, November 12, 1881, game with Yale, E. S. Perin, '82, who had been troubled for some time with a lame or weak ankle (received while "skylarking" on the green in front of Matthews' Hall in college yard), received no injury, but did not find his ankle strong enough to play out the whole hour and a half and so retired.

No mention is made of this in the papers referred to, but I wish to give all my recollections. You yourself played in both of the games referred to, and may be able to bear me out from your memory. I am safe in saying that no Harvard man received any serious injury in their Princeton games.

2. Manning was a thorough believer in athletics and did much for the game of football at Harvard. I believe that if he were alive to-day he would, like myself, be opposed to mass plays and many other modern movements which, disguised under various forms or names, all put too great a premium on mere brute strength, and which are particularly dangerous to school teams and small boys who play this game, growing in popularity all over the country.

Personally I should be glad to go back more to the open game of 1879-1884, and I think that many would agree with me.

I don't think the present changes go far enough, or that they will cure the present evils. But we can wait and see. Believe me,

Your old opponent and faithful friend,

T. C. THACHER.

YARMOUTHPORT, MASS., March 19, 1894.

I have gladly filled out and now enclose the blank form you have circulated. While my football playing extended at school and college over a period of ten years, during which time I probably took part in four or five hundred games,—match and practice together,—still I do not feel that anything I could write for publication would command the respect and attention you desire. So I will simply say that I have never seen a player permanently injured during that time.

Very truly yours,

Harvard, '85.

JOHN SIMPKINS.

NEW YORK, March 13, 1894.

My "serious injury" was received in the early part of the first practice game of my senior year, when I was not in the best possible condition. I twisted my knee soon after play began and very foolishly finished the game. If I had stopped playing at once I have no doubt a rest of a day or two would have been sufficient. As it was, I had water on the knee and was prevented from playing any more that fall.

In the eleven years that I followed football closely—at Exeter and Harvard—I recall only four really serious accidents. Two men at Exeter, one a member of a visiting team, had their legs broken, but in neither case was the fracture a bad one. Phillips, '86, of the Harvard team, was accidentally kicked in the head in a Princeton game and badly hurt. He was obliged to resign the captaincy of the nine the following spring, but the year afterward captained and played on the nine. Holden, '88, received an injury that might have proved fatal, but has left, I believe, no permanent injury.

I have always considered football the best of the athletic sports for developing a man and bringing him into good physical condition. Unquestionably it is the most scientific of all sports.

Comparing the two sports in which I have taken an active part—base-ball and football—it is my experience that a game of base-ball is far more tiring than one of football, and I attribute this to the fact that in football all the muscles of the body are constantly in play, while in base-ball certain muscles are strained to the utmost, although the player, especially if he is an outfielder, may have practically nothing to do.

I trust your enquiries may show the public at large that football is a sport to be encouraged.

Very truly yours,

WALDO W. WILLARD.

PHILADELPHIA, April 13, 1894.

My story is easily told, as you see. I am a very great enthusiast on football and think from my own experience that there is no game like it.

I played in but five university games, however, submitting to the mortification of having a freshman put in my place, but as I was in my uniform on the field from September 24 to November 25, I had a fairly good schooling in the game. I am much obliged to you for doing me the honor of selecting me as a sufficiently representative man in football to furnish the little information I possess on the subject, and fear I don't deserve it, but in conclusion I can say that my experience was almost entirely without accident, that I found it much less rough than it appeared to be in the actual play, and that I was never better or stronger in my life. Believe me, with kind regards,

Very truly yours,

LOUIS A. BIDDLE.

PHILADELPHIA, 1893.

I have played football for two years, and never was hurt to amount to anything, and think the training and the work has done me a lot of good. Football, as it is played to-day, is good enough for me.

Yours,

CHARLES M. WHARTON.

CHICAGO, May 3, 1894.

Regarding my injury, I will say that I have always considered it to be due to the fact that I was wearing a pair of new shoes with very sharp cleats. I was twisted about in a scrimmage, and the shoe holding firmly to the ground the two bones of the leg were twisted, one upon the other, causing both to snap. My chief regret over this occurrence arose from the fact that it debarred me from playing football for the remainder of

that season. I never felt the slightest ill effects from the injury after my recovery, and the best evidence that it left no unpleasant results behind may be found in the fact that, for three or four years after graduating, I annually played football here on the team of the Chicago University Club, taking part with very little training in a number of rough games against college teams. Perhaps I need not tell you that I consider football to be the greatest game ever played. I feel that it gives one a sense of self-reliance and cultivates the ability to think and act quickly when exposed to danger. Should there be a younger generation of Hamlins of Yale, I shall hope to see them play football. With kind regards, I remain,

Very truly yours,

HARRY L. HAMLIN.

NEW YORK, May 5, 1894.

In all my experience as a university team player I have never actually and personally known of a single case of anything like permanent injury as the result of football playing. The worst accident of which I have any personal knowledge was the breaking of a collar-bone, which was entirely well in three weeks. I have known of worse injuries as the result of both cricket and base-ball.

So far as I am personally concerned, I regard my football experience as having had a decidedly and permanently beneficial effect upon my physical health.

It gives me pleasure to testify to my belief in, and admiration for, what I consider the very best all-around game ever played.

Yours very truly,

C. A. GRISCOM, JR.

PHILADELPHIA, April 24, 1894.

I shall never regret the day I first stepped upon the football field. I consider football a manly game, and

in my profession energy and vitality are required, both of which in my estimation I acquired in the game. All of my classmates, as well as my college-mates, who played on the 'varsity team are robust and healthy. What, then, is better proof of the value of the game and its worth to the young student. Above all I claim a player will acquire "sand," which is so often wanting in the average college man.

I wish I had the power to influence the college authorities to vote for the continuance of the most popular game now played in this country.

My hope is that it may never die.

Very respectfully yours,

IRVING E. ZIEGLER.

UPPER LAKE, CAL., April 15, 1894.

I was deeply interested in athletics of all kinds while I was at college, though I devoted myself especially to rowing, and I have since followed other sports as carefully as I could from this distance. Therefore, I am very glad to have an opportunity to write my opinion about football a little more fully than your questions require. While at school, I played football for several years, but it was then such a crude game that I do not consider that I played it, as the meaning now is, so I have given only one year as my experience. As regards the most serious injury I received on the field, I have stated that it was a swollen knee, but I think it right to say that that knee I injured a good deal when a mere boy, in learning to skate, as I had a very severe attack of water on the knee at that time, and never considered it perfectly strong, so whatever was the cause which made it swell, it does not follow that the same cause would have hurt a sound knee. And I remember that at the time I was not conscious of any fall, strain, or blow which might have brought it on. The injury was not severe



enough to prevent my keeping on with that game nor from playing another game a week later, though I had to give up all intermediate practice. Nor did it interfere with my rowing the following spring. In fact, I have always been able to ride, run, walk, row, work, or do any thing I want, without pain or inconvenience, and the only time I notice the trouble is after sitting in one position for an hour or so, and then my knee begins to pain me, but the pain leaves as soon as I walk a few steps. I was in very good condition at the time, and think that it can all be attributed to the earlier injury. I think that the effect of the game upon me as an individual, both physically and mentally, was extremely good, and I do not see it can fail to be the same with others. I do not believe in both teams piling themselves on top of a runner. To me this appears to be most prolific of accidents. If any part of the player's person, who has the ball, other than his feet, touches the ground, the ball should be "down" there. Thus there would be no object in trying for any more gain, and so no one would have to try to stop him. Lastly, I don't think a man trying for a catch should be interfered with at all. Too often he is banged on the ground in the hope of disabling him, and now some of his own side have to uphold him. Either he should not be allowed to run at all, or else his opponents should not come near him. It would be as fair for one side as for the other.

Yours truly,

CHARLES MIFFLIN HAMMOND.

PHILADELPHIA, April 2, 1894.

The total number of match games in which I have played will reach over 125, in which number I was compelled to leave the game but once on account of my injuries, although a sprained ankle and

a contusion of the sternum made it advisable for me to leave the field on two other occasions. All the rest of the games I played from start to finish. The seven years I was in college I think would average fifty practice days a year, or a total of three hundred and fifty days, without any thing to show for them but a general muscular soreness, and this was usually absent after three or four weeks of practice.

Will say that in all the games I have ever played in have never seen a serious accident, nor do I know of any of the contestants being any the worse to-day for the few bruises they received at the time.

Have also refereed and umpired a great many games, and have never seen a serious accident in any of them.

I remain, yours respectfully,

J. HILAND DEWEY.

PHILADELPHIA, April 25, 1894.

The happiest recollections of my college days are connected with the football field. And to football I feel I owe my present good health and sound constitution. Without a doubt, in my estimation, football is the grandest game ever played, and the good it has done the rising generation, both mentally and physically, cannot be measured. And you may rest assured that any thing I could do to advance the popularity of the sport would be done most gladly.

Very truly yours,

HOWARD H. SYPHER.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

The papers in regard to football to my sons, T. B. and S. N. Morison, I have received, and will forward to them. But as they are now in Mexico, probably in the wilds, at a distance from a post-office, a reply will be uncertain—may at best be delayed many weeks.

As the papers show, you want positive answers to the questions from themselves directly, and over their own signatures. I know their judgment in the matter, and have been so much interested in the whole subject since they left home for school, more than ten years ago, that I cannot resist the opportunity to say for them both that they and I believe that to their school and college athletic training, which was largely taken under the spur and interest of football, both owe their present physical strength and vigor. Both Ben and Stan played football at Exeter and Yale seven years. Stanford had never any serious injury. Ben (T. B.) had, during the sophomore year, the muscles of one thigh seriously injured by (I think) a kick, was out of college for several months, but returned the next year well—and played football to the end of his college course.

As a member of his family, I have heard Ben so often make the replies to the questions enclosed that I have written, and send them for whatever you may consider them worth, thinking from receiving duplicates of the papers that you earnestly desire the answer.

Very sincerely, etc.,

R. N. MORISON.

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE, April 21, 1894.

It affords me much pleasure to reply to yours of April 19 : First. 1873-77, Philadelphia High School, Association Game ; 1877-78, Philadelphia High School, Rugby Game ; 1879-86, Philadelphia Crescent Football Club, Rugby Game ; 1878, 1881, 1886, 1887, University of Pennsylvania ; 1888, 1889, 1890, at Swarthmore College ; 1891, at Swarthmore as playing coach. Really playing every day continuously, during the football season, for twenty-one years.

Second. During that time I have received four serious

injuries. In 1878—University of Pennsylvania and Princeton—weighing but 140 pounds, tackled and threw Harlan, his weight coming on me wrenched my hip-joint, preventing my playing again that year. I was unconditioned. In 1886—University of Pennsylvania and Princeton—in running with the ball, I went into bounds, and was tackled and unintentionally thrown by Cowan, dislocating the knee, which still continues weak, the fibula being liable to slip out. I was in good condition. In 1888—Swarthmore and Lafayette—being tackled and downed under a pile, my arm was wilfully run up and back, fracturing the acromion end of the shoulder, which I feel yet. In 1891—Lawrenceville and A. C. S. N.—in rushing through the centre was butted in the jaw, knocking out a tooth and splitting the lower jaw at symphysis. So that I have been hurt but twice legitimately—the only time sufficient to lay me off being when I was out of condition. At no time has sprains or wrenches kept me away from play more than three days.

Physically, football has made me. To it I owe my development and strength, being the incentive to systematic exercising. It has given me endurance, muscular vitality, and quick cöordination. It has allowed me to live to this day—for I was so delicate as a boy as to be predicted a corpse before I was sixteen.

Mentally, it has widened my comprehension, sharpened acuteness, quickened perception, given stability and permanence to purpose, dissipated bigotry and intolerance, showing that men are equal and equally important. Finally, it is the one game for college-men to play; but it requires proper training, and is not safe for untrained men. I am,

Sincerely yours,

J. KINZER SHELL, M. D.

PHILADELPHIA, April 19, 1894.

In my experience, which has extended over a considerable time at school and college, I have never known any one to be permanently injured in playing football. By "permanently injured" I mean injuries of such a nature as to affect the after health or ability to move about freely in their after-life. I believe that the fatal injuries which have appeared in the columns of the daily press are due to the fact that those who were injured were improperly clad, in poor physical condition (such as would render it dangerous to engage in any sport), or careless as to their playing. I am further of the opinion that much harm has been done the game by reporters, ignorant of the rules of the game, who misconstrue pushing and shoving into the so-called "slugging." I am,

Very sincerely yours,

HENRY W. THORNTON.

NEWTON HIGHLANDS, MASS., April 1, 1894.

Your statements and queries concerning football playing have been received but cannot be well answered, as A. Rogers Crane, Harvard '84, passed away several years ago.

He played football for several years, but never received to my knowledge any serious injury. We have always considered that his football playing had left a good effect generally.

Yours truly,

EDWIN R. CRANE.

UPPER LAKE, CAL., April 2, 1894.

It is with the greatest satisfaction and pleasure that I am allowed to send you my mite of evidence in favor of the dear old game.

Having seen little or nothing of the present style of

play, I do not feel that I can give an opinion for or against it. As to the game itself, one requiring such tact, perseverance, and courage must stand at the head of college sports.

If only a grand reunion of all the old players might be held, what a living testimonial it would be as to the good the game had done and how small and narrow-minded would seem the charges against it. Of course I believe in a searching physical examination, and then go in and win; only let the game be fair, with not the slightest opportunity for unsportsmanlike work.

As to myself, I think I played as hard as a man could, and yet I was very fortunate as to accidents, which I attribute to being in splendid condition and studying the game. I am very well indeed and know that my old days at the game have been of lasting benefit to me. Trusting in your victory over the fanatics, I am,

Most sincerely yours,

W. O. EDMUNDS.

SAVANNAH, GA., April 9, 1894.

It is the first such favor that has reached me. I am sorry my record misses being perfect. But I only left the practice field once, and a game never. Thank you for your effort for the game.

Yours, with cordial remembrance,

RICHARD M. HODGE.

MIDDLETOWN, CAL., April 7, 1894.

I herewith enclose the blank as per your request received yesterday. I desire to state further that I have never been in better condition, physically and mentally, than while "in training" for both football and the crew. Thus far I have never noted any injurious after-effects, but on the contrary believe my power of endur-

ance was greatly increased by participation in both of these sports.

I do not know personally of any cases where there have been deleterious after-effects.

Yours very sincerely,

ROLAND E. HARTLEY, M. D.

PORCELLIAN CLUB, April 9, 1894.

It seems to me that though while playing many men do suffer slight injuries, yet whenever the training is judicious, as it is now in all the leading colleges, the risk of the injury proving serious is very slight, and the effect of the game, morally and physically, is exceptionally good.

Yours sincerely,

GEORGE R. FEARING.

NEW ROCHELLE, N. Y., April 3, 1894.

Let the good work go on—but who the devil is making you all this trouble? They are not going to pass any State laws against it, I hope. Football, in my opinion, is best at its worst—to be Irish. I do not believe in all this namby-pamby talk, and hope the game will not be emasculated and robbed of its heroic qualities, which is its charm and its distinctive quality. People who don't like football as now played might like whist—advise them to try that.

Yours faithfully,

FREDERIC REMINGTON.

BOSTON, April 6, 1894.

It seems to me that the danger in football is not so much to the men, if they do not play a style of game beyond what they are trained for, as to the game itself; that I think is in serious danger. If the game be properly modified this hue and cry about the danger to the men and against the game itself will cease.



The game as played to-day is grand, is magnificent, but it savors too much of the gladiatorial, and if it is ever to become a truly national sport, as it deserves, it must be made practicable for the large body of young men in business, clerks, etc.

As for the mass plays (relics of the Theban phalanx!), if they be not positively dangerous they appear to be so; they make the game forbidding to the fathers of all would-be players, are fearfully wearing on collegians, are impossible for all others, and are enjoyable by none.

Trusting that my ideals are no higher than yours, I will close, wishing you every encouragement in the work of improving the grand old game.

Yours truly,

CHARLES F. GILMAN.

CHICAGO, April 3, 1894.

Dr. Arnold of Rugby, on a certain occasion when asked his opinion of the game of football, is reported to have said that at that time the British empire was governed by the men that had played football at Rugby. This is of course a high approval of the game, but in my judgment it is not overdrawn. The moral qualities that are essential to success in the game are the same qualities that lead to success in the career of a college graduate. A lack of courage, or a lack of the capacity to act quickly in an emergency, or to meet a crisis with decision and determination, would make a failure of a man as a football player, and the lack of those qualities would as surely produce a failure in after-life.

From the standpoint of physical culture I think that too much cannot be said of the game when the training is had under the supervision of one who understands its possibilities. A competent "coach," in my judgment, is a very necessary appendix to a university

eleven, and he should be a man that has some knowledge of physiology.

The training as well as the practice and the actual playing of a match game are of course a severe test of one's physical powers, but in my career of three years as a football player I do not recall a single instance of over training or single illness or injury resulting therefrom.

Very truly yours,

JAS. S. HARLAN.

PHILADELPHIA, PA., April 22, 1894.

I have taken considerable pleasure in answering your questions. My only injury in two years' play was a broken nose, the result of a display of temper and not to be placed against football.

Football is undoubtedly the best of our out-door sports.

It seems to me that I still feel the good effects of the training, and know that the lessons in self-control and obedience will aid and benefit me in the struggle for existence.

I most heartily recommend the present game, with its systematic methods and training, believing it to be an important factor in modern educational methods.

I have observed that the best men in the field are usually the best men in the classroom, and certainly out in the world they stand out in the great game of life, in fair competition with other men.

Please record me as a staunch supporter of the game.

I am, sir, yours sincerely,

GEO. G. ROSS, M. D.

NEW YORK, March 3, 1894.

I am glad to contribute my portion to your enquiry regarding the effects of football.

During the two years playing on Princeton team I was never more than bruised.

Without hesitation I regard my athletic work as one of the best features of my college life. Before it I had but moderate health and strength; ever since I have enjoyed uninterrupted good health and seem able to resist any thing. Hospital work is confessedly most trying. Few men complete their service without some sickness, or without showing to a marked degree the effects of confinement, hard work, and irregular hours. Two years of service seem to have made no impression upon my health. However, I think we would make a great mistake if we were to confine ourselves to the question of the physical well-being of the lovers of the game.

In teaching us, as no other game does, the value of regular habits, good food, and avoidance of all excesses, it does a most excellent service. *Most of all* I value the coolness of mind, readiness in emergency, and self-control, which, I am sure, football playing gives. These points one can make, not only from personal experience, but from the common testimony of all who watch the game, for I know that I have never heard a discussion on this topic in a general company where it was not granted that these qualities were prominent in the make-up of football men. To me it is this effect on the mental stamina which makes the game the best of all we have.

Yours very truly,

DAVID BOVAIRD, M. D.

BLUEFIELD, W. VA., March 21, 1894.

Football is, in my opinion, the best game there is. Besides playing while at school and college, I have played at least one game every year for the past five years, without injuries of any kind except small bruises.

The training received in football has been of the

greatest benefit both to myself and to others with whom I have played. Since leaving college I have gone through a good deal of hard physical labor, which I do not think I could have stood without the training I received in football and base-ball while at college.

I may add that I know of no one, personally, who was ever permanently injured at football.

Yours truly,

F. R. WADLEIGH.

SOUDAN, MINN., March 16, 1894.

In reply to your circular in regard to football, I wish to say that in spite of the fact that the effect of the game upon myself was bad, I am much in favor of the sport. At the principal colleges the training is ridiculously severe, and I believe, as at present played by the university teams, is nearly an unqualified evil. But with judicious and moderate training the sport is the best, for vigorous men, that I am acquainted with.

Yours very truly,

J. R. FINLAY.

CAMBRIDGE, March 14, 1894.

In addition to the questions answered I should like to say that I consider football not only a very interesting game, but a wonderfully good mental discipline. I have always believed, and still believe, that football and boxing have done more to make it possible for me to keep my temper than any verbal instruction, mental exercise, or good example could possibly have done.

Yours truly,

F. J. BANGS.

NEW YORK, March 26, 1894.

As a boy I was quite frail and sickly. At the age of about ten I went to school at Rugby in England, which

was one of the preparatory schools for Rugby College. Having a natural fondness for out-of-door sports, I immediately went in for steeple-chasing across country, football, and cricket, and I have always claimed that it was owing to these sports that I developed physically into a fairly powerful man. I played football for two years at this school, and was on the team the last one. I then left Rugby, owing to the expectation of coming back to this country and going to Harvard. Before returning, however, I was another year at a school at Norwood, just out of London, and played on a team there. I then came over to this country and played on a team in New York City for a year, the team being composed of the best players we could find at that time. I then went to the Adams Academy, Quincy, Mass., and played for two years on their first eleven. From there I went into Harvard and played on the university team, freshman year, and also on the freshman team. During all these years I do not know of any player being permanently injured in any of the games in which I played, nor was I at any time hurt, except that, as I played full-back or half-back in all the games, and, therefore, had a great deal of kicking to do, the muscles of my right leg were very much strained, but I do not feel that I have ever had any ill effects from it. In the series of questions which you have asked me to answer and which I enclose, you ask "What was the most serious injury you ever received on the field?" The answer I gave, saying, that a front tooth was extracted by a fellow catching his glove in it, seems rather a peculiar one to happen on a football field, but it was certainly the most serious injury I received, and a *cavity*, in reply to your second question, made it "permanent." I was terribly disappointed at having to leave college at the beginning of my sophomore year, owing to my father's failure in business, but

even after that played for a year or two occasionally on different teams around New York, and also one in Chicago, and have been in splendid health all these years. Of course, I realize very fully that the competition between the different colleges was not nearly so great in those days, nor was the training as severe as it is now, but I feel from the experience I had, and all the men who played at that time, and the fact that none of us were injured permanently, that the game in itself is a grand one.

Yours very truly,

FRED L. ELDRIDGE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 2, 1894.

I entered college at the age of seventeen, not very well developed physically, and weighing 150 pounds. I had never seen a game of football played under collegiate rules, but went into it for exercise and kept it up because I found it of benefit to me physically, mentally, and morally. At the end of my senior season of football I weighed 183 stripped, had put an inch or so on my chest and had gained correspondingly in the rest of my anatomy. This was not, of course, *all* due to football, but I am positive that a large percentage of gain came from that source.

I was never seriously injured, and never saw but two such cases during my time of play: one a green man who had his leg fractured, and the other Holden's injury in the game against Harvard which you refereed for us—the latter one the result of palpable carelessness on Holden's part.

I never stood better in my studies than during the ball season, and I was never more free from college forms of dissipation. I think the game is a vast advantage to any young man, as an educational factor, if kept in its proper place.

There are, I think, now, three valid objections to the sport :

1st. The tendency to professionalism, which has ruined several of our sports, notably boxing and horse-running, introducing inevitably an undesirable element.

2d. The increased power of the game toward personal injury, due, I think, to making mass plays *the game*, instead of subservient to and a part of it.

3d. The amount of time it may take up from the work of the curriculum. The last I am not so familiar with, but from the reports of a younger brother now in college, I judge that instead of concessions being made for football it excludes and outranks study more than it ought.

Outside of these three objections I know of nothing against it. I am very fond of the game, have followed it pretty closely, and am only sorry that I am too old and too much of a "back number" to ever actively enter the arena again.

It has aided me in my profession, inasmuch as it has taught me self-reliance, to judge quickly and for myself, and to keep my temper—three very essential points in my profession. Believe me, sincerely,

JAMES R. CHURCH, M. D.

NEW YORK, April, 1894.

I played the American Association game for thirteen years, for three of which I was member of the Princeton University team, and captain of same for one year. For one year I played under the Rugby rules in Princeton University team, and was captain of the same. For two years I played on the Columbia University team (Rugby rules). In proportion to the number of players I consider that quite as many men were seriously injured under the old Association rules as are at the present time under the American Rugby rules.



In recent years as a surgeon I have had considerable experience with football injuries, but very few of such accidents have been of a serious character. I feel sure that reports of injuries received at football have been very much exaggerated. A. J. McCOSH, M. D.

March 20, 1894.

It is with pleasure that I answer your circular-letter, and I highly appreciate your efforts.

I forgot, in answering your questions, that I once broke that important bone called the clavicle. That shoulder is my strongest limb.

I do not think it best for a timid boy to try and enter the game of football. The worse knocks are received when trying to make them easy.

How grand it must be now to play football, since it has become a scientific game! We always played it scientifically, but each one used his own judgment, and it was individually scientific. Now it is truly scientific. How I would like to try a game nowadays! But I know my staying qualities would be short, for want of training. One must train for it, if only for wind. A tired man is weak, therefore liable to get hurt, where a trained one would escape.

I note with pleasure that the game is taking a hold down in the South, at Dallas, Waco, and Fort Worth, in Texas.

I am out in the western part of the State of Texas, so do not get to enter the sport, though I don't believe I shall ever get too old to enter it if the opportunity ever affords.

My advice to young people would be to learn to tumble (not gracefully) easily; and, above all, learn to take a knock without feeling pugnacious. Be a gentleman; if the time comes and you have to fight, your chances are best.

If I had a son, whether he were going into football, or, later, entering business, I would advise him the same.

I am, as ever,

JAS. A. WETHERBEE.

ATLANTA, GA., March 26, 1894.

I began to play football as soon as I was able to play anything, and kept it up continuously all through my school life and at college. I played on a great many different elevens before I went to college, and had a pretty rough experience in the game, always playing with men who were older and heavier than myself. I do not remember ever having received any injury of the slightest consequence. Of course, I have been covered with bruises, and have had slight sprains that disappeared very quickly. I do not remember ever having been incapacitated or of losing time from any injury. I follow the game as closely as possible in the newspapers, but have had very few opportunities to see any of the games since 1882, and, of course, do not feel that I know very much about the present game. I think the battering-ram idea is all wrong.

Yours very truly,

H. M. ATKINSON.

NEW YORK, April 2, 1894.

You, I am sure, understand thoroughly how deep is my interest in "*the*" sport, and how great is my desire to have the public realize the value of the game.

I played one year at Phillips Exeter Academy on the scrub team, and afterward as a substitute. The next year I played on the Harvard freshman team, and the Harvard *second* eleven. The two following years—my junior and senior years—I played on the Harvard 'Varsity. The two years also, while studying at the Law School, I played on the 'varsity.

Up to the time of my graduation—five seasons—I think I did not miss a day's practice; certainly I could not have missed more than a day or two. I never missed a game during this time. The same statement applies to the two years when I played as a graduate, except that I did not begin to play until about the fourth week of each of these seasons. Moreover, I lost two days' practice at the close of the first of these seasons. Still further, I never left the field on account of an injury either in a game or practice, and was never disqualified.

In the course of these seven seasons I received innumerable small scratches and bruises, and knew what it was to be sore and lame in every portion of my body. The only injuries, however, which I can remember which amounted to anything at all were: (1) A badly sprained finger, (2) a slightly twisted knee, (3) several cuts in the eyebrows.

(1) The sprained finger annoyed me a good deal, especially at first, but did not keep me from a moment of practice. It came around all right in the course of the winter, and now shows no trace of the injury.

(2) In a "scrub" game, a few days after the end of my last 'varsity season, while trying a kind of work to which I was entirely unaccustomed, I twisted my knee. I had no difficulty in finishing the game, and the only effect was a decided limp for a couple of weeks.

(3) My eyebrows were cut open several times, owing to the sharpness of the underlying bone. These cuts healed up in about a week, usually, except one which I received late in my first Law School season. I was then in very bad condition—needlessly overtrained—and as a result, I think, the cut was very slow in healing. It was fully six weeks before the cut was completely healed, and it caused me considerable annoyance. There has been no further trouble, however.

This is a complete list of all the terrible calamities which befell me during seven years of football playing. All these injuries—as I believe is usually the case—were received in practice, excepting only the twisted knee, received in “scrub” game, as I mentioned above. A few almost imperceptible scars in my eyebrows are the sole reminders of these football accidents.

I shall not enlarge upon the mental and physical effects of the game upon myself and upon many others whom I have known. You know my opinion about these matters already. I firmly believe that there is no training so good for growing boys or young men, not only physically and mentally, but morally as well. Every boy should be induced—almost compelled—to take part in the game ; and, if you can only get the public generally to understand and appreciate its true character, it will be a long step toward that desirable result.

As you ask me to tell you of my present occupation, etc., I add that I am a lawyer here in New York. I am sure that my strong constitution and capacity for hard work, which were developed by football, will prove of great advantage to me.

Forgive me if I have written too much for your purposes.

Faithfully yours,

PERRY D. TRAFFORD.

BOSTON, April 4, 1894.

I played football seven years, three at school and four at college, and notwithstanding my weight—for at no time did I ever reach 142 pounds—I never received any injury which amounted to any thing very serious. I have played in nearly forty games and have never been obliged to leave the field for any injury ; in fact I have never been hurt, except badly handled in one—Pennsylvania—game. I feel that the game of football has

been very beneficial to me in every way. Before I went to college I was obliged to go West for my health on account of weak lungs, but throughout my entire college course I enjoyed splendid health. I think besides it has given a certain confidence, coolness, and self-reliance that is of inestimable value to me in other sports, as running, sparring, tennis, etc. I was always very nervous before any game, large or otherwise, but I found that after the first plunge it rapidly disappeared. This talk of terrible roughness and brutality in the championship games seems to me to be absolutely untrue. I found that the larger games were not really so rough, the only difference I noticed was the terrible earnestness and determination, which cannot but be impressed on one's mind. Perhaps the reason of this was, that I was outweighed in every game and didn't notice the difference, but I hardly think so. My physical condition in football season was not generally very good, as I was apt to go "fine," but with the exception of a few abscesses and boils, I never felt any after results. I recommend the game to every boy, for I consider it the very best sport in the world.

Yours truly,

S. V. R. CROSBY.

KNOXVILLE, TENN., March 18, 1894.

I think football is a game that, if modified a bit, would be the most fascinating of college games. However, in its present state, I am a great admirer of it, and shall continue so as long as I am able to advocate and play the game. I have played base-ball and football both, the former for eight years. Even though my connection with football is yet in its infancy, I admire it much more than I do base-ball. I am,

Yours truly,

HARRIS T. COLLIER.

OSWEGO, N. Y., March 6, 1894.

1. I played (Rugby) about ten years in all, a year or two on an English team abroad, then four years (freshman, substitute, and university) in college, and three more in the Theological Seminary (university).

2. My most serious injury was a slight cut over the eye from a collision with Jack Harding.

3. It was not a permanent injury, but it gave me a permanent idea why the Yale boys had the reputation they bore at the time.

4. Received in a practice match with Trinity, when as substitute I was detailed to take the place of a Trinity man.

5. That was a valuable part of my training.

#### GENERAL REMARKS

1. Does anybody think boxing should be suppressed because bruisers and sluggers give brutal exhibitions in the prize ring? It is perfectly true of football, as it is of boxing most certainly, that it affords a fine opportunity to the brute to show his brutality, and a temptation to the man whose gentlemanly qualities are only skin deep to exhibit his coarse nature. For the very same reason it also affords a fine opportunity, as boxing does, for a true gentleman to show that he is one, and for the man whose gentlemanly qualities need tempering and strengthening to develop them in practice. But if we believe in the predominance of gentlemanly qualities in college athletes—and who does not?—by the same token we must believe that the prevailing influence of football will be of the best.

2. Does anybody think that the right way to develop manly and gentlemanly character in young men, when temptation arises—as in football it undeniably sometimes does arise—to do an ungentlemanly act, is to remove them from the influence of the temptation? There



may still be colleges which forbid card-playing, billiards, theatre, and dancing, on the theory that the way to keep young men from vice is to remove the possibility of transgression. I am loath to think that manly Yale will ever take the ground that it cannot trust its students to be gentlemen if opportunity is allowed them to do otherwise. That would be the real meaning of abolition.

From the tenor of your questions I judge you want an opinion as to the effect of training toward prevention of injury, as well as development of health. My emphatic opinion is that the man who goes in with all his might, in apparently absolute recklessness, is far safer than the man who tries to save himself a bruise or two. You remember the match with Columbia in 1880 when we agreed not to hurt one another, as the Princeton game came the following Thursday. Don't you recall that three of the best men on the team were laid up—Chummy Eaton with a broken collar-bone—because we undertook to “play easy”; but we came out of the Princeton game without a scratch? Training gives a man confidence and shows him how to handle himself. It is not only valuable for the match but afterward, as I can testify. I am sure I owe much of my vigorous general health to old football days; but I also think it is partly because we practised “falling on the ball,” that though I do a good deal more running, jumping, and falling down than becomes a D. D., it never occurs to me that I am going to hurt myself, and I never do.

Moreover, I think I owe something mentally and morally to my football playing. My stand was always highest in the fall term. But besides the “humanities” which were dinged into me in the classroom, I value what some would be pleased to call the “inhumanities” dinged into me on the football field. There is a “humanizing” in the true sense of the word which comes by tackling your college adversary in a good football game,



as well as that which comes according to the old schoolmen by disputation in the lists of logic.

Finally, if you will pardon length, they say : " After all, who gets the benefit of all the training, etc., except eleven to fifteen men out of the fifteen hundred in the university ? " Who besides ? Every man jack of them who from the time he was in petticoats dreamed he might sometime be on the 'varsity eleven, and kicked his baby legs, and sprinted and wrestled and felt his biceps. Show me the man who never felt the ambition to be swift, or strong, or shrewd, or quick-eyed, or skilful in foot, or arm, or back, or legs, or head, and there we may find one who never got any benefit from the 'varsity football games.

While all the rest of the football world has been airing its views, and you, old fellow, more than all the rest put together, have been holding the game up out of the reach of the detractors, as you used to hold the ball up tantalizingly out of reach of a tackle till you " passed it back," I have been moved from time to time to put in my oar. Still I have felt that my business was to " keep back." Now, as you call me up, I will deliver my kick, which I only trust may not this time be too long.

I am to preach at Battell the 20th of May, and if you are in New Haven then shall hope to see you.

Cordially,

B. W. BACON.

NEWBURGH, N. Y., March 19, 1894.

I consider football *the* game, and although from its very nature it is naturally a rough one, still, when you take in consideration the thousands who are to-day playing it, bad accidents are very rare, and in the great majority of cases these will be found to have happened where the men were not properly trained or looked after. With

one exception I know of no one among my personal acquaintances who is at the present time suffering from a serious permanent injury, the result of football.

The newspapers are responsible for the grossly exaggerated idea a great many people have on this score. Only the other day the New York papers contained an account of the death of a young lawyer, a graduate of Yale in 1885 or 1886. The papers stated that his death was due to blood poisoning, the result of an injury received in a game of football at Yale. It has since been proven that no such man ever played on any of the teams at Yale, and not only that, but his room mate states that to the best of his knowledge and belief the man never played even "scrub" football.

I asked a well-known doctor as to whether it would be possible for any one to die from blood-poisoning, the result of an injury received eight or nine years previous, and the reply was "No." Still, in spite of all this, this man's death will be attributed by the great majority to football. This only serves as an illustration of how people get such absurd ideas in regard to the injuries and deaths resulting from the game.

The only bad effects traceable to football are in those very rare cases where men have been permanently injured. On the other hand it undoubtedly has a tendency to promote regular and good habits, as that is one very essential part of the training; it teaches self-control, and strengthens and quickens one both mentally and physically.

I have no doubt that years will be added to the lives of many as the direct result of the greatly increased endurance and vitality received from playing the game of football.

In ninety-nine cases of a hundred, the most rabid opponents of football are those who know absolutely

nothing about the game, and, in fact, have never even seen it played.

Wishing you every success in your work, I am,

Yours truly,

EDWIN S. BELKNAP.

SAN ANTONIO, TEX., March 17, 1894.

No man was seriously or permanently injured in the four years I was in college, and as far as I have been able to follow them have no knowledge of any bad effects since, traceable to football. The other questions I have answered on the blank sent me. I had the ordinary Princeton football training. I had two brothers on the team, neither of whom was injured, and both are enjoying good health to-day. Now, as to my opinion of the game, mentally, physically, and morally, I know of no game that is as capable of developing a man physically, his perseverance, his determination, and quickness of thought and action, as football. I am a great enthusiast on the subject in spite of the strong feeling prevailing against it, and will do all in my power now and hereafter to uphold the greatest of athletic games—football.

This is my opinion as a college man, a football player, and a surgeon.

Yours truly,

JOHN H. BRYAN, M. D.

CAMBRIDGE, MASS, March 20, 1894.

All I can say is that I never received any serious, and certainly, no permanent, injury.

I have been temporarily stunned, but that never amounted to anything.

When I hurt my shoulder I did it entirely myself, by falling on it and tearing the ligaments, which let the arm down off the shoulder and dislocated the clavicle.

I think there is no need for me to say that I consider, and have so far found the game the best kind that I can possibly indulge in for my mental and physical condition.

The good that I have obtained from football has repaid me many times over for the few chances I have taken.

Yours sincerely,

ROBERT W. EMMONS, 2nd.

LYNN, MASS., March 19, 1894.

The short statement about my injury in reply to your printed question would make it appear that my injury was entirely due to the collision I had in my last game. As I wrote you in answer to your last circular, the blow was only one of the factors in bringing about my nervous trouble. It is only due to football to say that the ordinary player, in average condition, would have been in good condition again three or four days after Thanksgiving Day, having received the shock that I had. That last fall I had an unusually large combination of circumstances to deal with as captain. We had practically a new team to pick out of the incoming class, lacked the usual support of the coaches, and had to cope with probably the strongest line Yale ever had. I am not a man with a great reserve of strength, and the anxiety I had in turning out a team out of so much raw material, and the fact that I didn't miss playing a single practice or regular game during the season, brought me down altogether too "fine" the week before Thanksgiving. I suffered from insomnia, and was altogether unfitted to enter the final match. I received the blow on the head as I was attempting to block off Hefflefinger from one of our half-backs. My head collided violently with the lower part of his body. I was stunned for a few seconds, but the play was not stopped. After the game I was in a

very nervous and weak condition. Very unwisely, for the next few days I indulged in late hours and mild dissipation, which certainly aggravated my condition. If I, in the condition in which I entered the Yale game of the previous years, had had this experience, I believe I should have had no trouble in resuming my work at college. I think college football is a benefit physically and mentally to any man who starts in with a good physique.

Trusting that this will not come too late to be of service, I am,

Yours very truly,

RALPH H. WARREN.

NEW YORK CITY, N. Y.

It gives me pleasure to answer your questions. First, because of my love for the game of football, and second, because I always found you, when the feeling between Yale and Princeton was running very high, a game, true sportsman in every sense of the word.

I played every game, and every minute of every game, that Princeton played during the years 1877, 1878, 1879, and 1880. I played at 135 pounds, and was never seriously hurt; but was in good shape when the time for Princeton to get in the field again came around.

I am speaking now as a man who has not played football since 1880, when I say I think it the greatest of all games, and the effect on the players is generally good.

If I ever have a boy, he shall go to Princeton with these instructions: "Get on the football team. If necessary, play three years on the scrub team for the sake of getting on the 'varsity in your senior year."

The great games of football I consider an excellent training for a man who has to go out in the world to make his way. The great fights that Princeton had with Yale in my day taught me one thing: That when

there was an opening in the Yale ranks I had to take *immediate* advantage of it, or the line was closed, and there is no use in running against a stone wall. So it is in the game of "life." Every one at one time or another has a great chance, but if advantage is not taken of it immediately it is gone, the ranks are closed, the numerous seekers after fortune and fame rush in, and probably your chance never comes again.

The training which I got on the football field I consider as having been of immense advantage to me since leaving college.

Yours very truly,

FRANCIS LONEY.

PRINCETON, N. J., March 12, 1894.

Enclosed please find the list of answered questions which was desired of me. In the interest of the game it gives me the greatest pleasure to be able to answer in this way. Hoping in the most earnest way that the effort will increase public favor for the game,

I am, sincerely,

T. G. TRENCHARD.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 17, 1894.

In playing football for a period of four years at Princeton, I recall being injured only three times: First, cut over the left eye by concussion with same part of another man's skull. Second, being thrown headlong on the face by a push in making touch-down after long run. The ball had to be held, but it was hard on the face. Both of above were in practice games. Third, two fingers dislocated by a kick in game with Rutgers, practically a practice game, their team being very raw and vicious. None of these injuries was permanent. I was in good condition at the time.

Respecting the general enquiry, No. 6, I am par-



ticularly well qualified to give you an answer, having considered the question very fully, and thought over it a good deal while at college: I got on the university team in sophomore year, and played through the season of 1877. Was on team again in fall of 1878, and played through all of the preliminary games, and to within two days of the time the team left to play in Cambridge, when I received a peremptory telegram from my people at home to stop playing, my mother being much agitated over sensational accounts of the game then circulating in the papers, and certain medical opinions of a nature similar to that mentioned by Mr. Morgan as having been published in the *Times*. Knowing that such a request would not have been made without reflection, and having been very little interfered with parentally, I felt bound to acquiesce in that instance, but not without very indignant protests from Ballard, who was captain at the time, and our football directors. Substitutes were not available as now, in those days, and were very little practised in team play. It was a particularly disappointing experience, as we beat both Harvard and your team that fall. Before the next fall got around I had gone over the whole question of the present and after-effects of the game, and had convinced my family by lengthy argument of the beneficial results from the exercise and the training of body and temper in playing football. Played on team through fall of 1879, when we succeeded in beating Harvard and tying your people.

I remember very distinctly in the latter game the wonderful work behind the line of the Yale captain and his remarkable long punts repeated again and again from a clear space not over five feet square, sometimes saved for him by his men, being the first instance of any thing approaching interference that I recall. It was wonderful playing, uniformly repeated, and



wholly different from the accidental long runs upon which many men's reputations were then based. I believe that that captain was none other than yourself, and take great pleasure in giving you any information in my power.

Very truly yours,

BLAIR LEE.

WAUSAU, WIS., March 16, 1894.

The thoroughness with which you go at your football statistics pleases me.

I trust you will receive a hearty response from all the players to whom you have written.

The results will be interesting to all who want facts. The two strong points in the game, to my mind, are: First—physical development, and second, quick decision.

Yours truly,

CHARLES J. WINTON.

WILKES-BARRE, PA., March 16, 1894.

I started to play football in the fall of 1877, at the Lawrenceville, and played continuously to 1887, in practice and in match games at times, at the position of either half-back or full-back. The training and exercise made a great improvement in my health, both in the opinion of my friends and of myself. The most severe injury was a strain of the knee joints, causing a synovitis which compelled me to go to bed and have splints placed on the limb. This injury was not caused in a scrimmage, but by an attempt to turn very quickly at full speed. I was then playing full-back and misjudged as to the direction in which the ball would bound, and in order to recover it turned very quickly and injured myself. No person was within twenty feet

of me when the injury occurred, and neither did I get the ball.

Hoping all success in your undertaking, I am,

Respectfully, your friend,

A. G. FELL.

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH., March 14, 1894.

As you will remember I was always rather a timid player and never was hurt. The effect physically was good, but mentally I am in doubt, as I can distinctly remember using some pretty hard language two or three times against the Princeton men, and was willing to back it up too, and think I would do the same to-day.

It certainly is a game that requires one to hold or lose his temper. I have never held mine, and it would take more than football training to accomplish it. So I am in doubt as to the mental effect.

I have watched with interest the progress of the game, and your great success, and offer you my congratulations.

Hoping to see you next June, I am,

Yours respectfully,

PH. C. FULLER.

HOBOKEN, N. J., March 3, 1894.

I consider football the best sport in every way that a man can indulge in. It requires a man to be in good healthy condition, or if he be not, then one or two weeks of playing will bring him into good condition. In order to play one has to give up any injurious habits, and one great lesson that the game teaches is that when forced to give up smoking or drinking a man learns that he is able to give them up when it is necessary to do so. No game or sport is a greater developer of the physique, nor is there any thing that adds more to health.

That it is rough cannot be denied, but that slight element of roughness develops pluck and teaches one how to control one's temper. Both physically and morally as the developer of a true man nothing equals it.

EDWIN A. S. LEWIS.

PRINCETON, N. J., March 5, 1894.

I have not only played myself, but I also number among my best friends men who have taken an active part and prominent position in the sport, and I can only speak of it in the very highest terms.

Occasionally, as in my own instance, a man is compelled to quit the game on account of some slight temporary injury, but it is for the most part of very rare occurrence.

The injuries received are for the most part little more than bruises or strains, and seldom prove permanent. The vast amount of good acquired by the playing of the game, both mentally and physically, far outweighs any thing that can be said against it; because, if we were to abolish such sport as this we would soon have a weaker race of men, who would be much more subject to the ordinary ailments and complaints of mankind, and whose results are far more injurious than any effects produced by football.

The training to which a college man is submitted prepares him for harder knocks and blows, and the ground on which he plays is free from all obstructions and excrescences which might injure the player in a fall. Most of the injuries we read of in the newspapers, and which create such a stir among the outside world, are for the most part received by men or boys who know little or nothing of the game, and who play in some back lot where there are plenty of rocks and other obstructions, which bruise and sometimes permanently injure the players. This latter, however, is not the result of the

game, but the ignorance and carelessness of the players.  
I am,  
Very sincerely,  
CHAS. S. MACKENZIE.

AUBURN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY,  
AUBURN, N. Y., March 5, 1894.

Your communication relative to *the* American college game received. Being an enthusiast on the subject I might go into details, but aware of the fact that it is *greek with* and not against *Greek* (notice I use small and large letter to express proper relation), I shall only give you my experience, and this will make my position clear to you.

As you notice, my most serious injury was a sprained ankle. I received this hurt in a game in which a man acted as captain who never had filled the position before. Four times (I was a half-back) he sent me through the same opening, it being a plunge through the centre. The fourth time my ankle, being weakened by the successive strains, gave way, one of the opponents treading on it while my leg was stretched out. The injury lasted about two weeks. I go into details at such full length because I wish to make it clear that it was not due to over- or undertraining.

Other hurts and small injuries, such as one receives even in acting the fool—letting football aside—these I was subject to as everybody else is.

I have played, *i. e.*, taken part, in match games each year since I left college, and find that I am never in better condition *morally* (I believe this is one of the strongest arguments in favor of the game), mentally, and physically, than when indulging in that sport. Morally, in that it uses up that surplusage of animal spirits and vitality which, if allowed to work out its own salvation, usually finds some weak point in a man's moral nature and assails it successfully ; and for myself

I would prefer every bone in my body to be broken than that I should suffer some of these habits to hold dominion over me, even for a season. (This is from the inside, for I've been there.)

As to our mental nature, we all know that what quickens life stimulates thought. And as a professor in the University of Virginia said to me in 1892 while coaching there, "Mr. S., if I should pick out a man whom I could follow in peace and in war, my choice would be a good football player."

Physically, I am more of a man than I should have been had I never known how to play the game. It took pigskin to make a man of me! I can stand fatigue and endure hardships (and we have them in theological seminaries) and withal *not lose heart*. That's the greatest lesson I learned—to be a man even in defeat.

I trust you will not regard the above as mere verbosity. I mean every word I have said, and if it be not of any use in the work you are about to do, only remember that it is the feeble voice of one who, an ardent lover of the game itself, hopes to see it preserved that other generations may taste and see that it is good.

Very truly yours,

WM. C. SPICER.

PITTSBURGH, PA., March 5, 1894.

With the understanding that my answers are enthusiasm and not egotism, I will try and answer fully:

1st. I played (the old game) at Andover three years, 1872, 1873, 1874, and at Yale (the old game), 1875, and (the new game) 1876, 1877, 1878, and have played every season since, playing my last game in November, 1893, and have during that time played more football than any living man, I believe.

2d. Never left a game on account of an injury

or stopped playing during a game until it was finished on any account during twenty-two years of playing.

3d. I weighed when I began to practise at Yale (my first real training) in 1876, 198 pounds, and have from my training there and the feeling inspired by my general physical and mental condition, in a degree kept up my training, and to-day weigh 197½ pounds. Have not been sick from any cause twenty-four hours since 1872. I also believe that a man who will train properly and conscientiously will have a mind that will be able to do better work and in less time than the same mind would otherwise ; that such a man is more esteemed by his associates and can set an example that does much good in society, and unless he abuses himself when out of training, will lay the foundation for a healthy after-life, and be able to meet the trials in business and overcome them with more ease on account of his physical training received at football. (I have a son eleven years old who has been playing and training in his boyish way and has not been away from one lesson at school for three years, and has excellent health and a clear mind.)

Yours sincerely,

O. D. THOMPSON.

CHICAGO, ILL., March 5, 1894.

While in college I played for three years. Freshman year on freshman team, and last two years on university team. While I have never received any serious injury either in practice or in the game, and have never lost a day on account of injury, I have been conscious at times of a little weakness in my left knee, the result of a strain in practice.

I think the game of football the best sport that we have and think that the benefits resulting from the game greatly off-set the chances for injury. In my

case it has been very beneficial, and I should dislike to see any steps taken to put an end to the sport.

Yours very truly,

A. B. NEWELL.

BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS,  
NEW YORK, March 6, 1894.

I enclose herewith the blank sent in your letter of February 23. I am very glad of any opportunity to assist in the defence of any honest college game. I think objections are truly made to football upon the ground of the time it consumes and for the false ideal it sets up of excellence, not for its own sake, but for the sake of vanquishing an adversary. Along both of these lines it is capable of improvement. But even with these objections to it I think it is a game which those who know it best approve most.

Yours sincerely,

ROBERT E. SPEER.

WILKES-BARRE, PA., March 6, 1894.

I played football regularly throughout the season during the four years I was in college, either against or as a member of the university team. I had previously had a little practice at the game at St. Paul's School, but without any systematic training. My most serious accident at any time was a sprained ankle; my ankles being naturally weak, they seemed to have a dangerous tendency to turn, whether in practice or in a regular game, and regardless of whether I was in good condition or otherwise, but the results were never more than temporary and never kept me from playing a game through or left any permanent injury.

I unhesitatingly say that the general effect of playing football in my case was good in every physical sense, and I have never been conscious of any bad results men-



tally. The habit of regular exercise, regular eating and drinking, and regular living generally that is essential in training for a college team, not only developed all the latent muscle and physique in me, but continued with more or less force after the training season was over. I am decidedly in favor of college football as advantageous both mentally and physically to any man who has any thing in him worth developing.

Very sincerely,

JOHN S. HARDING.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., March 5, 1894.

I started to play football two years before I entered college, playing with High School team. I never was hurt until I had played four seasons—that is to say, so I could not go in and play if my captain required me to. Of course, at times, a man is apt to get slightly hurt, in which case it is policy to lay off a few days, as one is able to do much better work for the team upon starting again than if one continued to play with slight sprains. The only injury I ever received that amounted to anything was when I wrenched my shoulder in the fall of 1890. This injury laid me off five weeks, but in reality I could have played much sooner if Captain Rhodes had not considered it better policy to make sure that I was absolutely well before starting again. Upon starting to play I did not notice any pain in my shoulder, and I have not felt any weakness or pain in this member up to this day. I never received an injury in playing in the large games, that is, against Harvard and Princeton. In fact, I never received a scratch in those games, and I have always noticed that a man is less liable to get hurt when playing against a scientific team. While I was playing on the Yale team no man received injuries that resulted permanently. During all the years I have played I have known no one person-

ally who has been seriously injured. It is undoubtedly a fact that many teams now playing do not understand the game, but there are fewer of such aggregations every year. As the science of the game advances in the different sections, I am confident that less will be heard of the so-called injuries. The slight strains are more liable to be received early in the season before the player gets into shape; and seldom are strains received later in the season unless they are renewals of the old ones. Therefore great caution should be taken at beginning of season to put one's self in some kind of shape before starting in to play hard football. My shoulder was wrenched early in October, just two weeks after I started to play.

I can easily praise football as a physical developer. When I started to play in New Haven in fall of 1888, I only weighed 180 stripped, whereas I weighed just 202 pounds the last year I played at Yale. I did not increase any of my muscles to an enormous size, thus becoming muscle-bound, but all of them showed the effects of my training, and every muscle increased in size, according to measurements of Dr. Seaver. I have not even now lost good results obtained in training, and I am much better prepared to stand any hard strain or work than before entering college. The muscles of my legs, arms, back, and neck were especially developed. I think the discipline I received on football field in restraining my temper was alone worth the time given up to training. Besides, learning to take advantage of openings, and learning to quickly change tactics when laid out plans fail, are essentials of a football player, and to do this one must think quickly and act much quicker, which trains the mind by keeping it at all times concentrated on the game. These are just a few of the advantages on the field, and to wind up I shall give a few of the other benefits resulting.

In the first place the mind is much clearer and in

better shape to study, and one can accomplish much more in a shorter time. I have no doubt whatever that my stand in college studies was as good, if not better, while playing than when I was out of training. Then a man in training has many temptations removed from his sphere which every young man is subjected to, either in college or in the large cities. One is also a much better judge of character after a season of football, as a good player will constantly study the men playing opposite to him, as many men give away much by movement of muscles of face, eyes, etc., especially when excited.

Very truly yours,

W. W. HEFFELFINGER.

MANAYUNK, PHILADELPHIA, PA., March 8, 1894.

It is my opinion that in my case football has certainly been of *very* great benefit to *me*. I *know* that I would not have been physically the man I am to-day without the training I got in college playing the game of football. For three years I played half-back on the 'varsity, and one year upon my freshman team in the same position. The only injury of any note I ever received was a dislocated shoulder received in the Harvard game of 'the fall of 1882. I considered myself, as well as the whole team, overtrained in that game, which fully accounts for the injury I received, for had I been in a proper physical condition I am sure it would not have occurred. I consider it a dangerous game for men not in training to attempt, but for a man receiving the proper training as practised in our large colleges to-day, it is a healthful, safe sport, and many a time have I wished myself back again to my college days, when I could go through again those three years on a 'varsity team. I have never to this day regretted it or felt in any way *any* bad effects from it. I have two boys

now, that some day I expect to send to college. If they don't *both* make the 'varsity, I shall be greatly disappointed and consider that they have missed one of the great advantages of a college life.

Yours very sincerely,

ALFRED T. BAKER.

BALTIMORE, March 15, 1894.

I am now a lawyer and no longer indulge in out-door sports, but I know that I am better physically and mentally and morally for having played the game. I never received but one injury that laid me up for any time, and that occurred in a practice game with the scrub team in my senior year early in the season. Since leaving college I have played off and on, but I have never been in good condition and even then was only hurt once about two years ago : no bad results have come from either injury, and although I have been out of college for ten years, I have not spent one day during that time in bed from any sickness. In my opinion the game as it was played in my time, and since, is a thorough educator in all the qualities that go to make a manly man. It teaches obedience, self-restraint, unselfishness, and calls for the greatest amount of pluck, self-denial, and quickness of thought and action. My interest in the game still remains unabated, and every year I go back to college to see the practice of the eleven.

Very truly yours,

S. JOHNSON POE.

WILMINGTON, DEL., March 14, 1894.

I would state that I played for two years at Princeton, at the Association game, and my last year in college played Rugby in the fall and spring seasons. It being the first Rugby team that the college sent out, of course the game was not as hard, nor did it require the special

development, as you are well aware, that it does now. I can state from personal experience that I regard my football training at Princeton as equally as valuable to me as the mental training that I received there. For the first three years that I was out of college I was subjected to hard manual labor, and I found the reserve strength that had been cultivated by football not only useful but absolutely essential ; and I believe that unless I had had that training I should not have been able to have gone through with the work that I did. I can also state, based on my own experience, that the mental effect has been to cultivate self-reliance and promptness. In addition to my own case, I have followed the game closely since graduation, through my connection with the advisory committee at Princeton, and as the result of fifteen years' observation, my emphatic opinion is that the physical and mental effects are conducive to nothing but good results.

I would, however, state, as modifying the above, in common with a number of others, that a reform in the present rules is necessary, as the game as it is played to-day is a dangerous one for the average schoolboy or the man who is not in the best of training ; and we are all aware that whatever rules the college adopts the public will follow.

The above is probably superfluous, in view of the anticipated legislation that is now going on.

Yours very truly,

HENRY B. THOMPSON.

61 Mt. VERNON ST., March 13, 1894.

While at college I played two years on my class eleven, one year on the second eleven and part of the time substitute on the university eleven, and in my senior year I was a regular member of the team throughout the season. During this time I received only one

injury which even approached being serious : In my freshman year I was thrown on my head on the frozen ground, as a result of a tackle at or below the knee. I was laid up for five days, and felt some effects when overtired through the winter. I was able to finish out the season, playing in a match game a week from the day I was hurt. The accident, such as it was, occurred during a practice game, and while it is difficult to say what might have been, I am inclined to attribute the injury received to my inexperience, and to think that in case a similar fall had occurred a year or two later, I should have been able to protect my head.

I should like very much to enter my protest against the common practice of reasoning from accidents occurring on scrub elevens to the dangers of university football. All players will join me in saying that during the first ten days of the season men get bruised by things which later would have no effect, because the men get out of the habit of falling easily, and it takes time to recover the knack.

When men who are not in condition physically, and who fall hard when they are thrown, start in to play even a twenty-minute game, it is no wonder that they get hurt. No man can be thrown with impunity when he is exhausted ; but the accident which often happens in that case is due to the folly of the man, not to the danger of the game, which to my mind is very slight.

Yours very truly,

WILDER D. BANCROFT.

ANSONIA, CONN., March 16, 1894.

I think football is a good thing, and that people will be surprised at the result of your figures. I know that the game built me up and was the best thing for me. I used to have a very quick temper, and now I can control it. I attribute this entirely to football. For goodness'



sake don't "monkey" too much with the rules. We want one game that cannot be played in the parlor.

Truly yours,

F. W. WALLACE.

SEATTLE, WASH., March 9, 1894.

In my experience I have only seen one serious accident, and that was in the fall of 1886 when Harry Hamlin broke his leg on the Yale field, and as I was playing next to him I remember the accident perfectly. His opponent in the practice game was Charley Gill. Hamlin turned suddenly and fell; the ball was not in play at the time and Gill was not in any way responsible, as the accident could have occurred in any drawing room.

I believe the training that a man undergoes, both physically and morally, is the best that any sport offers, and I have had fair experience in the university boat. It gives a man courage, such as nothing else can secure for him; he measures his strength against that of other men, and it gives him confidence. He is obliged to control his temper, which is invaluable in after-life. My own experience is that I have not suffered physically in the least from the game, and that I have in many ways profited.

Yours very truly,

GEO. R. CARTER.

PRINCETON, N. J., March 8, 1894.

I think all lovers of football will appreciate this investigation on your part. That the public should be so prejudiced against the game would hardly seem possible when one considers the fact that all those who have ever played the game speak so highly in its favor. To me it represents the typical form of bodily exercise. I



have gotten no end of good from the game, and my only regret is that I have been obliged to stop playing on account of other duties. I am,

Yours very truly,

DARWIN R. JAMES, JR.

EAST ORANGE, N. J., March 13, 1894.

I was in Princeton University from 1874 to 1878, during the change from the old football game to the Rugby. I played upon the university team in both games, two years under the old rules and one year under the Rugby rules. I received no injury of any kind from either set of games. I consider the Rugby game the less dangerous of the two, although it looks rougher. During my experience with the latter I saw but few players who were obliged to leave the field, and then it was from a sprain or from some slight accident; but under the old rules I have seen many who were carried off because of the dangerous system of "bucking" then in vogue. The most serious results from the game that I observed when in college came from playing contrary to the rules, and those accidents were usually the result of practice games.

I underwent a system of training, although compared with the modern athlete's method it would be considered rather tame. However, we were obliged to be careful of our diet and to practise on the field or exercise in the gymnasium twice every day. I was never better in my life than when so trained, and I consider that my health and general physique were so much improved that I have been able to bear the severe nervous strain of my pastoral work. From my experience and observation I am convinced that athletic sports, when not carried to a senseless extreme, are a benefit to the average college student.

Thanking you for the opportunity to express my opi-

ion upon this subject, and trusting that this communication may be of some service to you, I am,

Yours sincerely,

DAVID O. IRVING.

BOSTON, March 13, 1894.

I am convinced that the time I gave to football amply repaid me, in building up a physique which I otherwise would never have had. From an overgrown and very clumsy lad I developed into a fairly strong and far from clumsy college man.

I attribute this to football rather than to rowing, and as far as physical danger is concerned, I consider rowing of more danger to a man's constitution than football with its attendant casualties.

I do not mean thereby to condemn rowing. But merely mention this as a comparison of any danger which may attend these two sports.

Very sincerely yours,

GARDNER PERRY.

MONTREAL, March 10, 1894.

"Five years," is the answer which I have given to your first question, but in reality I have played two or three years more than that. I answered as I did, because for five years I was a member either of my preparatory school team, the class eleven, or the 'varsity, while for the other two or three years I was not a *bona-fide* member of any team, but simply a substitute, and struggling on the scrub side for a position on the school team.

I am somewhat in doubt what reply to make to your second question, for I have never had what might be called a serious injury. A broken nose, received in a game with the Orange Athletic team, will have to be the answer, I guess. This, however, was not serious

enough to necessitate my leaving the field. My only other injury which in any way might be termed serious was received in a practice game. In making a tackle my foot slipped in such a way that when we fell I stretched a tendon in the inside of my leg. After about fifteen minutes I was all right, and since that time I have felt no evil effects from the accident. This perhaps would be called the more serious of the two injuries, for I gave up practice for the rest of that afternoon.

I consider the general effect of the sport, both physically and mentally, good. It has been argued that the game is too rough and the exercise too vigorous and exhausting. I have always held that to the spectator the game appears much more rough than it really is. The exercise cannot be considered too vigorous when the fact is not overlooked that at the beginning of the season the work is comparatively light, and the steps to the hard work at the end of the season so gradual, that one does not experience any bad effects if he keeps himself in the condition that is expected of him. Among the numerous good points which the game teaches under good coaching, are the control of one's temper, to obey without questioning, to think and act quickly, to do his own duty, not forgetting to help his neighbor. These are but a few among the many good points to be learned by a season's work with a good team. The exercise, the plain diet, and regular hours are bound to keep one physically and mentally active. The harsh criticisms against football are not written by men experienced in the game; in fact, I don't remember ever of hearing one speak against the game who had ever played a season or a part of one. I hope these statistics which you are collecting will prove all and more than you expect of them.

During the last two years the game in the West

has taken an increased hold on the interest of the people. This is because it is becoming better understood. This better understanding is due in a great measure to coaching of old players and help from the East. Where you find the game best understood and best played there you will find the most interest, the least roughness, and the least number of accidents.

Sincerely yours,

F. E. BARBOUR.

BOSTON, March 12, 1894.

I have thought back over our teams of the old time, and with the exception of a broken bone in ankle suffered by Whiting, 1877, in a Montreal match, I remember nothing of consequence, unless two broken collar-bones—both in practice—be such. Other than the foregoing, I know of nothing in the way of serious injuries to the men of such constitution and build as do come to our teams, and it should be said that Whiting's injury was due to the slipping in the slime over a frozen ground.

As to after-effects, in my own case I found difficulty in the change from active training and good condition to a strictly sedentary life. These difficulties were of course in no sense due to the game, but to the adjustment to new habits.

We have many old football men in this vicinity. So far as I know all are in the best of health, and all speak well of the effects of the game. From them you will, doubtless, have direct information.

My word of caution—from a somewhat limited observation—would be directed to nature and amount of training and practice. I have in my mind a case where an excellent man was lost to the game through overtraining and practice playing when in poor shape, and I think I see a danger in our modern methods of making men "stale" by overwork. This should be

taken as an impression rather than an opinion, as I have not been able to follow affairs closely.

I am exceedingly glad to hear from you and to have the opportunity of contributing even slightly to your work.

From all that I hear the years have gone well with you, and you certainly have been able to keep in the game to an extent which makes the old men grateful for your constant service. I am, with regards,

Sincerely,

FRANCIS A. HOUSTON.

PITTSBURGH, March 8, 1894.

I am in the employ of the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company, Pittsburgh, Pa. I cannot say that I would have been any better equipped for my work mentally, should I not have played football, but I can most heartily say that physically I am twenty per cent. better a man, for health, for constitution; and I consider that in getting along among people the sport has been of invaluable service to me. In my four years' experience I know of no bad physical effects upon any one, except upon some man, perhaps, a crooked nose; also I know of some who were poor students, but I don't think football ever made them so. They would have been poor students without it. I am,

Very truly,

A. F. HARROLD.

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, March 13, 1894.

You have touched me on a sensitive point in asking for my opinion as to the dangers of football. I am probably one of the oldest active footballists on the continent, having fifteen consecutive seasons to my credit, and my experience ought to be of some general value to you. My experience, too, has been varied; two years

in Edinburgh at one of the best football schools, two at Harvard, and the balance here, where we meet in the army and navy teams some excellent exponents of the game as played in the mother country.

I have witnessed no fatal accidents and few serious ones, and, with almost no exceptions, the latter were directly attributable to ignorance or recklessness on the part of the player injured.

I am satisfied that football, as it should be played, and as I have, so far as I could, insisted that it should be played, is by no means a dangerous exercise, and that it is, if not the best, certainly one of the best, means of disciplining the physical and mental faculties.

Unnecessary roughness does occasionally creep in, and if not promptly checked by those in authority it will increase like any other noxious weed, and eventually lower the game in the estimation of nearly all. If captains and committees of management will strenuously set their faces against this evil it will soon disappear, but so long as the powers that be tacitly permit it, just so long will it exist. My own experience is that the rough player is not the best player in any department of the game. More can be done with the head than with the muscles, in my opinion. Football is a game of skill, not brute force, and the trouble with many players is that they fail to recognize this distinction.

You will permit me, sir, to say that I feel proud to be associated in this good work, in however so humble a way, with a gentleman whose name is a household word wherever football is known on this continent.

Very sincerely yours,

W. A. HENRY.

BOSTON, March 14, 1894.

It seems a shame that such a good, honest game as football should be allowed to fall to its present position

in some people's opinion ; but while it may be less brutal than it was seven or eight years ago, the whole style of the game is a great deal rougher than the game of twelve or fifteen years ago, and I am willing to confess that I am one of the malcontents.

There is no need on this occasion to go into the question of the position occupied by the game of to-day in the eyes of the public compared with the interest shown by the public in former years. I can only say I am not a participator in the enthusiasm.

I am not prepared to show any evil effects of the game as played to-day at the colleges ; but I do consider that the spirit of sport and honor, and the fact that it is only a game, are entirely lost sight of. The training and preparation seem unnecessarily long and severe, though I thoroughly appreciate the fact that a man should be in first-class shape to play a good game.

If one may make a few suggestions about the rules, permit me to say that to me the greatest evil of the present game is the interference, which is nothing more than "off side" play—call it as you will.

Yours truly,

F. WARREN.

BOISE CITY, IDAHO, March 8, 1894.

Every one who admires the game and has played on a college team appreciates the gallant fight you and others are making to establish this noble and manly sport in its proper light before a misinformed public, whose opinions are fast becoming biassed and teem with the ideas of some reporters who are ignorant of the game and fond of sensation.

I cannot understand, if football is as injurious to mind and body as some would have us believe that it is, why all the old football players stand so loyally for the game. Surely if there was any doubt about its bene-



ficial result, there would be some traitor among our own ranks who would lead the fight against us. The fact that there is not a dissenting or discouraging voice among those who have played on the large college teams is enough to satisfy any just and enquiring mind.

There is no doubt that nine-tenths of the accidents that are heralded about in the daily press occur in games where there is practically no knowledge and science of the game, and decidedly no training for it.

I firmly believe that there is no game or amusement where youthful energies are so readily developed into manliness, restraint of nature and temper encouraged, the mind and body strengthened, a noble character established, and a man taught to *know himself*, as in football.

I regret very much the stand that some of our leading professors, and even college presidents, have taken in this matter, and only hope that when the facts are presented to them their better judgment will prevail, and they will aid in establishing this game, which above all others should be encouraged.

Most respectfully yours,

PRINGLE C. JONES.

CHICAGO, March 12, 1894.

It gives me great pleasure to do any thing in my power to preserve football, a game which is, in my judgment, of the most benefit to our young men, both physically and mentally, of any played in our American universities. Of course the effect this sport has upon the player will depend largely upon the condition he is in at the time he begins to play, and what course of training he is put through; but the game itself, if it is properly taught, and the man properly handled, generates and encourages three qualities by which I set a great store, viz., health, endurance, and self-control.

I am perfectly frank in saying that I know of absolutely no instance in which a member of any team playing at Harvard University has been permanently injured, either at practice or in a match. The most serious injury that I know of was to Holden, the captain of the first team with which I was connected, when his breast-bone was broken in the Princeton game of 1887. Of course he was confined to his bed for a number of weeks, but he looks stronger than ever before in his life. I saw him the other day, and I am thoroughly convinced of this.

As I have noted in the statement enclosed, the only injury to me was water on the knee, which happened in practice that same season, and disabled me from playing for about three weeks. The injury was immediately and properly cared for, and there has been no trouble from it in these after years. I make no note of broken noses, because they are one of the necessary adjuncts of almost any sport. Mine has suffered from base-ball, boxing, and football, and, I may say, has been at times put thoroughly "out of joint" by rowing.

Yours very truly,

GEO. A. CARPENTER.

CLEVELAND, O., March 16, 1894.

Regarding my personal experience, the late W. Earl Dodge and I were the Princeton delegates to the first Springfield convention in the fall of 1876, which organized the college association and introduced the Rugby game under settled rules. Messrs. Baker and Atwater represented Yale at that meeting. I played in the first Yale-Princeton game in 1876, and in the first Harvard-Princeton game in the spring of 1877 at Cambridge. Since that time I have followed the progress of college football with keen interest and have witnessed many of the great games.

I am fully convinced of the great advantages of football and football training in the colleges, mentally, morally, and physically, but concur heartily in the movement for amendment of the rules in the direction of abolishing flying mass play and making the game decidedly more open.

Very truly yours,

J. POTTER.

BOSTON, MASS., March 20, 1894.

I played football four years at Exeter Academy, and three years at Harvard, and have no hesitation in saying that I think nearly every serious accident I know much about was due to the poor condition of the player or the methods of the captain and coaches.

I also think many accidents occur in the early part of the season, before the muscles are hardened, and while the players are in such poor condition that after the first few minutes of work they play in a loose, defenceless way.

I also think many men are injured before they acquire a knowledge of the game, when they think good football is to slug and "do up" an opponent.

As for myself, I can state that I was never injured seriously during the three years I was on the Harvard eleven, and I know of no game that compels a man to cultivate the power of self-control and develop those qualities which are sure to help a man in after life more than the American game of football.

Very truly yours,

JOHN S. CRANSTON.

OMAHA, March, 1894.

Entering college when very young and not strong, fresh from honors at school, and feeling well fitted to acquire more in that larger field, I am thankful that my

enthusiasm was aroused and my attention early turned to devote all the time allowed me to base-ball and football fields. The training necessary to become a candidate kept me from dissipation (into which I might have drifted), and built up a constitution into which so far time and sickness have not been able make any serious inroad. In my case, I consider the physical advantages obtained during my connection with football and base-ball fully as valuable to myself as the literary ones I enjoyed during my college course. Only good has resulted.

My experience has been that the accidents generally occur in the unimportant and practice games, when the men do not feel the necessity of being "braced," and on the whole being alive, as is the case in the most important games.

I suffered no injury in two and a half years in match games, and knew of none more serious than a sprain in a *regular* team where the team had been trained. I have no hesitation in saying that I think the effect of the sport *beneficial* both mentally and physically, and can see no reason why any one who is apt to be chosen as one of a team should not be benefited, with the care which is now exercised in training each candidate for football honors. Keep up the good work, and let this carping about brutality and cruelty cease. Make rules punishing the brutal, but do not spoil the game for a timid few.

Sincerely,

LEONIDAS P. FUNKHOUSER.

VIENNA, AUSTRIA, March 24, 1894.

Your letter containing the statement of an old Oxonian and enclosing a list of questions for football players to answer, was received to-day, having been forwarded to me from New York. It is with pleasure I am able to

have an opportunity to exalt the virtues of a sport to which I can trace absolutely no bad effects, but on the contrary feel that true enthusiasm which naturally comes to one who feels in after years the healthy effects of this manly game. It seems to me if public prejudice against the game of football was more an offspring of good judgment than sensation, it would be a blessing to many a weak and sickly boy sent by fear-inspired parents to our American colleges. I am asked what the good effects are in my own case. This would be hard to express. I certainly enjoy as a result of my seven years on the football elevens of Phillips Exeter Academy and Yale University a sound body and a healthy mind. The game has given me that which no book or tutor could—something of physical force and mental energy. As a physician, I could prescribe nothing that could reduce the mortality of our college students, those whose health and minds are wrecked by too much confinement and hard study, better than the indulgence in the healthy exercise.

Sincerely yours,

WM. C. WURTENBERG, M. D.

NEW YORK, April 3, 1894.

I went through several seasons' training with the Yale teams, and during that time received no injury for which I am the worse off to-day. I have a vigorous constitution, and cannot remember having had a day of sickness since leaving college.

So far as I know, the health of the men with whom I played has not suffered any bad effects from the game.

As to the effect upon one's mental growth it is hard to form any well-grounded opinion, as it is difficult to tell what one's intellectual powers would have been under other than the actual conditions. It seems improbable that in the long run one's intellectual devel-

opment will be impeded by sound lungs and perfect digestion.

The charge that the game has a bad ethical tendency in its influence upon the players is certainly false. Such a charge it would not be possible to make for one who has had any intimacy with a number of players during a long course of training.

My observation has convinced me that a course of football training where discipline is preserved tends to create or strengthen in the player many excellent qualities—qualities which men to whose opinion age and experience give weight regard as most essential to a successful and useful life.

Very truly yours,

C. O. GILL.

BROOKLYN, N. Y., March 2, 1894.

I think that football as now played will gradually lose its interest to the casual onlooker if there are not some radical changes made, and as a partial remedy for this I would suggest that the play be made more open, and mass plays, which are dangerous, be done away with as much as possible. Would also like to see a player trying for fair catch thoroughly protected.

Yours truly,

H. WARD FORD.

CHICAGO, March 2, 1894.

I enclose answers to printed questions and would say in addition that I consider the lack of padded trousers the reason for the shaking up referred to. It seemed to jar the nervous system considerably, and I was some time in recovering from the effects.

While writing on the subject let me say that I am very glad that you have taken up the subject of a

change in the present rules to prevent the mass plays and injuries resulting from them.

The open game was much prettier to watch, much less dangerous, and free from the press criticism. I suppose you are aware of the extent of the feeling on this subject. In Chicago it is most intense and general among all college men.

If the game is to hold its high and dignified position some such change must come, and that soon. Trusting that you will be successful in bringing it about, and with best wishes for the future of the game, I am,  
Yours sincerely,

JOHN FARWELL, JR.

HUDSON, MASS., March 13, 1894.

My experience in football extended over the usual preparatory period of four years in school, and was supplemented in college by the steady application of the football enthusiast of that time. The game has developed, of course, in the matter of team play to a great extent since that time, but I feel, in common with many other old football men, that this has been at the expense of many of the most interesting features. How many times we hear surprise expressed at an amount of kicking that in our day would have occasioned surprise only at its scarcity.

I am in sympathy with any careful movement to make the game more open, in order to give opportunity for a brilliant man to obtain credit for the prowess he really is capable of, and with this should be included a more stringent code of rules. The development of the game to its present state, in so many respects unsatisfactory, is due chiefly to evasion or dodging of the rules, becoming each year gradually wider and wider, until finally the evasion has become the rule itself.

My injuries were never received in match games. It



may be because a team in practice usually has an extra number of men added to its opponents, making the chances of rough handling much greater. When my hair grows gray perhaps the affliction of rheumatism or some ailment of old age may make its appearance in a knee that was lame or ankle that was sprained. Until that happens I should be unable to say, truthfully, that any of my injuries were permanent.

The question of good condition in my time did not trouble the football players as it did the rowing men. We were never "trained" as the word is used to-day. We made a feeble beginning in that line, but the trainer was obnoxious as an individual and a "professional" to the faculty, and was allowed to retire from the scene as gracefully as circumstances would permit.

Our training was not made to apply to individual needs, with the exception of cases where injury made rest imperative. The rule against smoking was not rigidly enforced, etc., etc.

The watchful eyes of trainer and medical attendant are advantages which we knew not of.

The effect of the sport on me was of two-fold advantage :

It taught me self-reliance and quickness of decision (much more than the team-work and preconcerted signals of to-day are capable of), and built up my body to an extent that I think now would not have been possible without that sport, although I will confess here that it was supplemented by four years of rowing on class crews.

I fear I have been somewhat prolix, but I have the feeling that in a full expression of opinion from the men who have been "through it," lies the best chance of finding the material for the reformation and defence of the game we all love, at what seems to me a critical time in its history.

Yours very truly,

GEO. P. KEITH.

BERLIN, N. H., March 13, 1894.

I enclose answer to questions asked and hope they may serve their purpose. It is certainly a very good idea to produce some *facts* in reply to the theories of unfortunate man and woman.

For my part I regard football the very best sport in every way that there is. It requires more physical and mental perfection than any others, and produces them. I rowed in the 'varsity in 1885 and 1886, but think football more beneficial.

I think the flying wedge and concerted plays when *combined weight* is used, to the elimination of agility, skill, and quickness, and resulting in roughness that detracts from the game, should be stopped by change in the rules. These plays are not football proper, but unfortunate developments which, I think, largely explain criticism.

Yours, with best wishes,

T. B. BURGESS.

PITTSBURGH, March 8, 1894.

I think that I, possibly, am in a position to give as good testimony regarding American Rugby football as any body in the country, with the exception of yourself, and a few of the old men who have stuck to the wheel through thick and thin from the very conception of the game. I not only saw the first Rugby game played, and played on the first Yale freshman team, but have seen every important game, with the exception of two, up to and including last Thanksgiving Day. In many of these games I have been fortunate enough to be on the lines, in the dressing-rooms during intermission, and with the team afterward, and in all these eighteen years, with probably two hundred players, have only known of two serious accidents, and these you might say temporary.

Eaton was hurt in Hoboken in 1879 badly enough to be laid up for the rest of the season, but his injury was not sufficient to keep him off the field the next fall, nor to prevent his captaining of the 'varsity team the following year.

Billy Brown was pretty badly broken up in the Amherst game in 1878, but he is in good enough shape to-day. I repeat, these are the only two injuries amounting to any thing that I have any knowledge of, barring, of course, temporary petty injuries which occur frequently, and are over with in a very few days, such as Hinkey received this year, and "Jean" Richards received in his day.

Please keep up your good work until the last croaker is compelled to give in. While I think that some of the momentum plays of the past two years may have a certain danger connected with them, yet with the diversified game of the past eighteen years, including every thing from the open long-passing game to the close wedge momentum game of to-day, with the almost complete absence of any serious injury among a properly trained team, the verdict must be with the splendid exhibitions of physical manhood throughout the country to-day. "Football, with its pure air and systematic, perfect training, is, together with being the best sport, the most healthful of all the college sports of the day."

Very truly yours,

JOHN MOORHEAD.

## CHAPTER VI

### CONCLUSION OF THE COMMITTEE

HAVING entered upon this investigation with a desire to gather all the information possible in a short time upon the subject, we find that the material thus collected is sufficient to justify us in submitting it to the public, and particularly to those interested in the schooling of their own boys. We also feel that we are warranted in drawing some conclusions from the facts at our disposal, as well as in making some suggestions. They are offered solely for the purpose of practically utilizing the labor that has been expended in collecting the evidence.

We find that the almost unanimous opinion of those who have played the game of football at Harvard, Yale, and Princeton during the last eighteen years is that it has been of marked benefit to them, both in the way of general physical development and mental discipline; also that they regard the injuries sustained as generally unimportant and far outweighed by the benefits. We find the same is true in regard to the players of the University of Pennsylvania, so far as we have received replies from them. Still further similar enquiries sent out to the players of the majority of college teams of the season of 1893 have brought back the same unvarying replies, testifying to the fact that the game was one of great benefit to the player, both mentally and physically. While it was fair to conclude that men who have been out of college all the way from two or three years to sixteen or seventeen would be fully competent

to judge of the effects of the game upon themselves, it seemed that something more would be necessary in the case of the school-boy who had not yet entered college. For this reason our enquiries in that direction were made not only of the boy himself, but of the teacher as well. The head-masters also of most of the prominent schools were courteous enough to reply quite at length to our request for the expression of an opinion. Such replies we have published in full in this book, both those favorable and those unfavorable to the sport. We find, however, that the evidence here, too, is that, in the majority of cases, the sport has been beneficial to the physical development and discipline of the school, and the concensus of opinion is that scholarship has certainly not suffered. Moreover, this latter conclusion is borne out quite strongly in the later progress of the boy, for we find in the colleges that the athlete holds his own with his fellows in point of scholarship, and that there are, in football at least, a number of instances of remarkably high standing.

Coming to the most technical part of the subject we find a large number of protests against the so-called mass plays, as being productive of a style of game too favorable to weight, less attractive to the majority of the students, and, according to some, conducive to more injuries, particularly in the school team. Here, it is argued, a different condition exists from that in the college team. At school a dull but mature student may often be found who is too old for his mates and far larger than the boys with whom he can play. He will be used in the mass plays and injuries to the smaller boys result. This committee is not prepared to discuss the rules, but certain changes have already been made in them looking toward an increased premium upon an open kicking game, and something of a reduction of the mass plays.

As to the matter of injuries, the committee find that by far the greater part of these injuries were sprains of the ankle and knee, the former predominating. But judicious protection of the ankle by means of special shoes, it is found, does much to save that member. It is probable, however, that the condition of the ground is mainly responsible for any great increase in the number of accidents to the knee and ankle, and the committee would suggest that no school or college field be used for football without some responsible person being held accountable for its condition.

We find that the schools are ahead of the majority of the colleges in one respect, and that is in the presence upon the faculty of some college graduate thoroughly posted upon the sports of the boys and able to tell what regulations will be of most benefit as well as most practicable in operation. This province seems to be one that should be well regarded and not left to the general information of some member of the faculty or of the college physician, both of whom have their hands full of other matters.

In the opinion of some of our committee, therefore, it would be desirable that a graduate should be a resident at each college, whose province it should be to keep himself thoroughly posted upon the sports and to have at his command a mine of information for the faculty and parents. Such a one would be able to furnish facts which should make indiscriminate and ignorant accusations against athletics, which needlessly alarm parents from time to time, of less frequent occurrence. He could be consulted upon both sides by the faculty and students, and his offices, rightly administered, would have a tendency to secure moderation on the part of both bodies.

Such a policy, however, must necessarily be regarded at each college with reference to existing usages. In some



the methods already in operation are, perhaps, sufficient, and our committee refer to the point only to emphasize the needs of such usages as will prevent the formation of opinions by the *public*, by *parents*, by *faculties*, and by *students* respectively, without a clear knowledge of facts and sometimes under the influence of prejudice.

And this leads us to another suggestion. We find that while the general result at the end of the year shows that the football man more than holds his own as a student, both at school and college, there is a complaint that during the last few days of the playing season the men are apt to be listless and inattentive to studies. This leads us to ask if it be not practicable by agreement between rival captains, both of school and college teams, to provide against a further increase of the time put upon the game. We do not speak upon the side of the alarmists, but we must contend that already the strain is great, the amount of time devoted to "summer practice" and "morning practice" has doubled in the last two years, and that a further doubling would certainly be inconsistent with either moderation or benefit, physically or mentally. Upon the disarmament plan the rival captains could thus agree, even if only upon a few points which should tend to keep matters where they now are, without injury to the chances of either or any team.

As to expenses and gate receipts, we feel that the collegian should not use his sport for profit, but that it is the nature of the American collegian, at least, to prefer paying his money at the gates for what he chooses to see rather than subscribing to any athletic body in bulk for its support. If we were speaking, therefore, for football by itself, we should be ready to recommend a very large reduction in the receipts. We understand, however, that the overplus acquired by football supports the other athletic organizations which could not of them-



selves be self-supporting. It seems proper, nevertheless, to suggest that efforts be made toward a reduction of admission charges to more reasonable figures, but with a due regard to the fair requirements of justifiable sports as a whole, at the same time ensuring collegians the first opportunity of witnessing the contests. The admission charges recently made are, in the opinion of many of the best informed, too high. The enormous sums of money taken in as gate money shock the public sense and breed extravagance on the part of the youthful managers of the sports.

From the facts at our command we conclude that it is possible to make a large reduction in expenditure, and this being accomplished the necessity for immense amounts in gate receipts disappears. This delicate subject must, of course, be left to the wise determination of the representatives of the various colleges and for the protection of all ; whatever is done should be done by common agreement. In this way any undue advantage or disadvantage to one or another team should be avoided. In making these several suggestions we at the same time submit that we are not in a position to know the details by which these suggestions could best be made of service, but we are sure that there are many influential men among graduates and undergraduates who will think as we do in the matter, and who can, with their practical knowledge, effect the improvements called for in the general conduct of what we feel ready, after our investigations, to report one of our best sports.

THE END



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
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